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Bot. & Rec. Aug. 31,
1844.

David

WILLARD'S

HISTORY OF GREENFIELD.

Forsan et hæc olim meminisse juvabit.

Perhaps the time may come, when the recollection, even of these things, will be pleasing.

VIRGIL.

"A THING OF SHREDS AND PATCHES."

GREENFIELD:
KNEELAND & EASTMAN.
1838.

Entered according to act of Congress, in the office of the
Clerk of the District Court of Massachusetts,
in 1838, by D. WILLARD.

PREFACE.

Reader, please to read the preface.

This work was prepared for publication more than a year since, (in July 1837,) and its delay has been owing to circumstances beyond my power to control. If my short purse had been more frequently honored with the visits of the glittering coin, (or even despised bank bills,) which have been too much like those of angels, few, &c. the case would have been different. The establishment of a new press afforded the opportunity of offering it to my fellow townsmen, the publishers volunteering its publication on fair terms, requiring no *security*, (which means entangling one's friends,) beyond the subscription list.

The humble and unpretending character of compilations of this kind, generally ensures to them a protection against criticism: were it not so, the circumstances under which this has been put together, will to every ingenuous mind, excuse its defects and disarm criticism. It has been prepared while visited with severe family sickness, and suffering under many privations—almost sufficient to paralyze exertion; surrounded by a little flock of roistering urchins —mere striplings, incessantly shouting and throwing up their caps in irrepressible and boisterous glee, and viewing every object on the sunny side. Little know they of the corroding cares of a parent's heart; "of the load of life which we are doomed to bear:" the anxieties which are continually draining the well springs of life. Happy, if age shall con-

firm the promises of youth : if the future shall realize to them a moiety of its visions, and if one of a thousand of the painted bubbles which now float in their imaginations, shall live, while others burst and fade away in darkness —and " happy, in my mind, was he that died."

I am indebted to Dr. S. W. Williams, Geo. T. Davis and J. C. Alvord, Esqrs. for valuable papers, and to them and others for liberal patronage and encouragement in my humble labors, which have cheated life of hours otherwise given to care and despondency. What I regret more than any thing except the indiscretions and imprudence of some years of life, is, that the same leanness of purse before alluded to, prevents my placing in this Book, a plate of Turner's Falls. *Non possum.*

If after a candid examination, the purchaser is dissatisfied because the work does not come up to his ideas, or contain all promised in the prospectus (some articles have been omitted) and finds no redeeming portions, he may as Yankees do, contrive by " a swop," or other means, to get as much out of the next man he meets, as he deems himself to have lost in this outlay, and I assure him that " with honest intention I've taken him in." As for the censorious, and those who always are, and delight in, finding fault, having no desire to suit them, I have no expectation that I shall do so.

Oct. 22, 1838.

TO

HENRY WELLS CLAPP.

As by your suggestion and liberal patronage, this imperfect History of a Town whose interests your means and enterprise have promoted, was undertaken, to you it is respectfully dedicated.

D. W.

THE Town of GREENFIELD, Franklin County, Massachusetts, is one of those pleasant and beautiful towns with which the Connecticut river valley abounds. It is about ninety miles west from Boston, 75 East from Albany, and nearly in a line between the two: is 40 north of Springfield—20 from Northampton, 20 S. from Brattleboro, Vermont. Bounded north by Bernardston, S. by Deerfield, E. by Connecticut and Fall rivers—is about one mile from the confluence of Green and Deerfield rivers—two from that of the Deerfield and Connecticut. The character of the scenery around is picturesque and inviting:—of its buildings, that of neatness and comfort—some partake of elegance without and within. Here are men with hearts and without hearts; the poor are not forgotten: and hospitality and good neighborhood abound.

Population in 1837—1840. Increase since 1830, 290. Polls 440.

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HISTORY

OF

GREENFIELD.

CHAPTER I.

Period prior to incorporation. Indians. First-Occupants. Grants. Deerfield. Sundry particulars. Schools. Taxes. Grain.

Of so recent occurrence, in the history of the human race, is every event or circumstance, connected with that of our own country, particularly so, those of any individual town, that although the historian of the whole country finds much to record of a most instructive and interesting character, it is not to be expected that much can be embraced in the annals of a small district not five miles square, and not deemed of sufficient consequence to be incorporated at an earlier date than 1753. Eighty-five years; nay not so much: that term is not fully complete and ended: not so long a term as is allotted to many an individual of our short lived race.

Here is surely little scope for indulging the excursions of fancy: to the lover of romance or novelty, the repast to be furnished is dry and uninviting; too much like the apple of Sodom, which though presenting an agreeable exterior to the eye, contains nothing better within than dust and ashes.

The settlers at Plymouth and the neighboring country, became acquainted with the region bordering the Connecticut, by means of adventurers who sailed up the stream and from the reports of the Indians. The Gover-

nor of Plymouth sent persons to examine the river and land on its banks. They found it partially cleared, and in situations favorable the natives cultivated corn and other esculents. The streams abounded with fish and the forests with game. The moose, deer, bears, wolves, beaver, otter, fox, with many other wild animals held possession of the territory in common with the Indian, and neither levied contributions from the ranks of the other, of more than his necessities required. Immense flocks of pigeons tenanted the woods, and innumerable waterfowl enlivened the banks of the streams.

Prior to 1753, this town formed a part of Deerfield, the first settlement of which commenced in 1671. A company of men in Dedham had obtained a grant of 8000 acres on Pocomptuc river; the northern boundary of the tract forms the north line of that town; a subsequent grant of seven miles square included the present town of Greenfield. Truth, tradition, or fiction, reports those who went out to view the lands, to have said to the people of Dedham, on their return, among other things, after describing the excellent character of the soil, &c. "Providence led us to that place. It is indeed far away from our plantations, and the *Canaanites* and the *Amalekites* dwell in that valley, and if they have

NOTE. In 1633. The Plymouth Colony found the Dutch settled at Hartford. Springfield was settled 1636, by a company from Roxbury. In 1639, the first printing press in North America was set up at Cambridge.

In 1633 the country on the Connecticut began to attract attention, several vessels went into the river this year to trade; several persons from Dorchester had travelled westward as far as the Connecticut river and noticed several places eligible for settlement. The jealousy of the parent country, or rather of its arbitrary monarch, was thus early excited and an order was issued by the privy council to stay several ships in the Thames, freighted with passengers and provisions; great numbers however during the year came over.—*Holmes.*

any attachment to any spot on earth, must delight to live there. But that land *must* be ours. Our people have resolute and pious hearts and *strong* hands, to overcome all difficulties. Let us go and possess the land, and in a few years you will hear more boast of it in this colony, as a land good for flocks and herds, than could ever be justly said of the land of Goshen, or any part of the Land of Canaan." * †

Whether such language as the foregoing was used by these men or, whether they entertained such ideas or not—one thing is certain, that in too many instances the natives were defrauded, shamefully defrauded and imposed upon by the settlers of the country: that the principle

'The good old rule, the simple plan,
That they should take who have the power,
And they should keep who can,'

was at that day and is now, too generally the rule of action. Of this, the observation and experience of almost every one, afford painful examples, and that too in some, who profess to be under the blessed influence of our Holy Religion. The character of our pilgrim fathers, those stern and hardy men, upon which so many of us delight to dwell, which is the theme of praise for many a writer, suffers in some respects by a comparison with that of the sons of the forest, with only the light of Nature to guide them, without science and almost without art. These men never punished for witchcraft nor for matter of opinion.

‡ A deed of part of the grant, made to John Pyncheon for the use of the English at Dedham, by Chauk or Chague, Sachem of Pocomptuc and his brother, Wassa-

* This grant contained a proviso that an Orthodox minister should be settled within three years, and a farm of 250 acres be laid out for the Country's use. This is said to have been laid at what is called "Country Farms."

† Worthington's History of Dedham.

‡ Hoyt's Antiq. Res.

hoale, is extant, dated Feb. 24, 1665,—prior to the Government grant, Capt. Puncheon procured four deeds from the Indians for which the proprietors of Dedham paid £94,10. The first named deed was witnessed by Wequonnock, "who helped the sachem in making the bargain." This deed reserves to the Indians, the right of fishing in the rivers or waters: hunting deer or other wild animals: gathering walnuts and other nuts and things on the commons.

As no part of this territory was included in these purchases, it does not appear that the Indians received any compensation for it, but from circumstances, it has been presumed they did.

Time has shown that the longer their residence in the vicinity of the white man continued, the more vicious and corrupt they became, and that they were almost invariably the objects, or subjects of his fraud and imposition. From the first settlement of the whites among them, they have constantly been dwindling in numbers: they continue to be driven farther and still farther towards the setting sun, by the restless flow of emigration and the cupidity of white men; their habits are unsocial and altogether averse to those of civilized life. An Indian wants no splendid mansion, nor elegant furniture, nor bed of down; he will not learn to manufacture a button or a jewsharp, or to drive a team; he wants no workshop, he can "catch no beaver there." The forest is his home, and his delight is in the chase and by the river side. Nature has so taught him, and before he became contaminated by a proximity to, and dealing with the white man, he lived according to her dictates. But the time is now rapidly approaching when the race shall be utterly extinct and annihilated.

The war whoop shall soon no longer be heard, neither by forest, nor hill, nor stream; no longer shall the Indian want the right of fishing in the rivers, or gathering nuts on the commons, or hunting deer in the woods; the

stately form of the son of Nature shall soon no longer be seen in any part of the land; the besom of destruction is fast sweeping him away from the home of his youth and the grave of his fathers. The whiteman wants his land, and *will* have it.

Who is there to mourn for Logan? not one.*

Our ancestors denounced the natives as savage barbarians. They committed no offences without provocation, and in the long black catalogue of crimes committed in Christian nations, but few, comparatively are found to occur among this uncivilized race. Is ingratitude among the number of their sins? The most eminent and glorious examples of the opposite are upon record. Was an Indian ever guilty of suicide, seduction, fraud, scandal, and innumerable other sins? Did an Indian ever sell wooden nutmegs, cucumber seeds, horn flints or powder, under pretence that by planting it would produce, its like? While he may take your life in war, or torture you as his victim, he would disdain to persecute you for opposing his favorite opinions, to take away your reputation for revenge, or defraud you of your property, which you might value equally with life.

The civilized man will exert all the power over you which the Law will give him, oftentimes more; and if you stand in his way or incur his resentment, his tender mercies are often cruel compared with the tomahawk, which destroys at a blow and all is over. Subjected as many are to obloquy and the persecutions of society—their death is slow and lingering—while the Indian tor-

* See the Story of Logan, a Mingo Chief by Jefferson.

NOTE On the first arrival of the English in Pennsylvania, messengers from the Conestogo Indians, came to welcome them, with presents of Venison, corn and skins; and the whole tribe entered into a treaty of friendship with the first proprietor, William Penn, which was to ast "as long as the sun should shine, or the waters run

since the time of the Romans, have cultivated Oratory to the same extent and with the same success. Their conceptions are strong and vigorous, their metaphors and imagery, bold and impressive, and every name given by them to inanimate objects or to one another, has a distinctive meaning in its application.

In war or peace; in the midst of change and revolution, near or remote, they have remained like the Jews, a distinct people; and it requires wiser heads than ours to see the justice of that policy, which, while it offers home and protection to foreigners of all nations, seems to pursue a system any other than protective of the natives, the rightful inhabitants of the soil. The weak, the defenceless and the poor have ever suffered from the encroachments of the strong, the powerful and the rich, and always will, as poverty is taken as presumptive evidence of want of merit; almost of actual guilt. In the history of these nations and their decline, as well as the settlement of our ancestors in this country, we have a display of the mysterious doings of that Providence, "which shapes our ends, rough hew them how we will," unfathomable and inscrutable; and that the leading and guiding hand of that Providence is distinctly to be traced in all the events connected therewith, I make no manner of doubt.

"The wind bloweth where it listeth; thou hearest the sound thereof but canst not tell whence it cometh nor whither it goeth." Great and wise ends were to be answered by the peopling this vast continent, capable of supporting millions more than it did, and affording a home for the surplus population of Europe; but from this cannot be drawn an argument to justify the innumerable acts of oppression and knavery which took place in consequence.

The conduct of the enlightened and virtuous William Penn affords an illustrious example of the course which reason and religion dictates in relation to the natives.

But he was a quaker, and the pilgrims could not endure them.

The situation in which the colonists found themselves, their common privations, wants and hopes, and dangers, necessarily led to an intimate connexion and union among themselves, to which is perhaps attributable the peculiar characteristics for which they were, and their posterity still are, distinguished. Perseverance, unyielding fortitude, resolution, unwavering faith and courage were leading and prominent traits in their character.

As this town formed a part of Deerfield, extracts are here taken from the records of that town so far as they are applicable.

1686. The first notice to be found, of the occupation of any part of this town by an individual is, that a tract of Land of 20 acres was granted to a Mr. Brooks on Green River. Here tradition comes to our aid, and locates his dwelling near the Bakery of Mr. George P. Field. The well at the next house, Mr. Eli Fisk's, is suppposed to be the first one dug. The grants made subsequent to this when the Village Lots were laid out, comprised but a few acres. It seems from record, as by tradition, that the Grantees of that period were not very exact and particular in defining their bounds for permanancy, or otherwise. For instance, the great public road from Northampton, in this direction is said to have been described as bounded at one place on ——s Oat trough. The Stage road from Deerfield, North, through this town, the record of which, may be found, copied, in the appendix, bounds on Aaron Denio's barn. What should we think at this day of a deed of a valuable piece of Land, defined after this manner,—at one corner where ——s, old white horse died,—at another by a great pile of rails,—or the following, which speculators at the present day would like well, "so far round as the good land goeth," which we are informed made a part of the description in a deed of land in this vicinity. Of

some Land, however, it is said, that the more a man has of it, the poorer he is.

The same year, (1686,) Grants of 20 acre lots were made to John Allyn and Edward Allyn, on the condition of their paying taxes &c., and to Joseph and Robert Goddard on the like terms,

In 1687, Grants of twenty acre lots were made to

JEREMIAH HULL,
EBENR. WELLS,
*SAMUEL SMEAD,
NATHL. BROOKS, Grant renewed,
PHILIP MATTOON,
G. & R. GODDARD,
NATHL. COOKE,
†JOHN & EDW. ALLYN.

"A record of the home Lots, up Green River, the South side of the Street to begin at the West end Eben-

* William Smead came to Deerfield as early as 1684. The family is of Welsh descent. One of this name was killed in Lathrop's battle in 1675, and was probably a descendant of William Smead who settled in Dorchester in 1658. From these have descended, as is said, all the families of that name in this part of the country, probably all of that name, in the U. States. They have always maintained a highly respectable standing in this town, and some of them have held important public stations.

† These were the sons of Edward Allyn, one of the principal men from Watertown who settled in Dedham and wrote the first records of that town. His lot extended from the High School at the present bounds of the Street as far down perhaps as Mr. Mark's house,—but this is uncertain. He was the ancestor of Mr. Amos Allen of Shelburn, and the late much respected Mr. Q. Allen. Edward Allen's house was where the High School stands; it was built of heavy hewn logs—was a fort and a public house. Rev. Mr. Newton lived there soon after he was settled—afterwards Mr. Bound, a Baker.. Mr. N. sold the Lot to Wm. Colman Esq. for about $1500.

ezer Wells 1st, and David Hoyt the 2d, Wm. Brooks the 3d and 4th,* Edward Allyn 5th. The rest on that side not taken up. On the north side to begin on the West end. Samuel Smead the 1st, the Mill Lot 2d, Josiah and Robert Goddard's 3d and 4th, John Severance 5th, Jeremiah Hall 6th, John Allyn 7th. There were 20 Lots laid out."

Many of these Grants were forfeited. The condition annexed to all of them was, that the Grantees should continue three years as residents after they became 21 years of age, pay taxes, and their proportion of the Indian purchase. The Indians received what they perhaps considered an equivalent—and it has been said that they received all it was worth; one thing seems certain, that whether it was worth any more than the price paid, to the settlers in its then state or not, it was in reality so to the Indians.

1695. The †Green River Lands, by a vote of the proprietors, were allowed to go rate free,—the town rate of Deerfield was made payable in "pork and corn, good and merchantable."

1698. A vote was passed in reference to Schools by which those who had children between the ages of 6 and 10 years, were compelled to pay whether they sent them or not, and those of over ten and under six paid only for the time of attending. At this time the former mode of raising money for town charges was changed, and they concluded, "to raise said rates by way of appraisal this year, of all rateable estate, and a committee was chosen, whose work was to appraise all rateable estate upon these rules, according to their best judgment and contrivance.

* Opposite Mr. Elihu Severance's, still called the Hoyt Lot.

† Called by the Indians, Picomegan or the boring river.

"Lands not exceeding £2 per acre and so to descend downwards, descending or proportion to ye rate having respect to distance of Lands from home and as for goodness what it is naturally and not by industry. Stock, an ox at £6, Cow £2, Horse £3, the first and so to descend downwards according to age and goodness. Rateable swine not fatning, 10s first, and descend as aforesaid; rateable sheep at 5s the first and so on &c.

In 1699, thirty acres of land each, were granted to Samuel Root and Joseph Petty on Green River. To Michael Mitchell 30 acres and a homelot of 4.

Jonathan Wells and others were chosen a committee to view all Grants upon Green River, and to "condemn such Grants as are in their own nature condemnable."

Bird Law. Every householder shall kill 12 blackbirds apiece this summer or else what they shall want of such number, shall pay — pence apiece in ye town rate and what they shall kill above said number shall receive of the Town — pence apiece until last of May, after, till middle Sept., one half pence; crows 4d.

Mill. Joseph Parsons of Northampton had obligated himself to set up a corn mill, where there was a saw mill, fit to grind before the last of May 1693. Toll allowed him, one 12th of all grain except wheat, and barley malt; one 14th part of provender, one 18th part of barley malt. At a meeting held Aug. 1699, he requested liberty to set up a corn mill on Green River, which was granted for one year. At a subsequent meeting, a Committee was chosen to confer with Mr. P. concerning a corn mill built by him in D. whether he will adhere to the bargain and keep his mill in good repair or give it up into the hands of the town.

Dec. 4. A committee was chosen, Lt. Hoit, Lt. John Sheldon, Thomas French, whose work was to state the bounds of Green River Town Plot.

The prices of Grain between man and man were stated—Summer wheat 4s, Rye 3s, and Corn 2s.

Grants of Land of 30 acres each, on Green River, to Martin Kellogg, Zeb. Williams, John Severance.

SEATING THE MEETING HOUSE.—In 1701, a vote is found upon record for the honored and aristocratic ceremony of seating the meeting house. "The fore-seat in the front Gallery be equal in dignity with 2d seat in the body of the meeting house. Foreseats in side Gallery equal in dignity to 4th seat in the body. Second seat in front Gallery and hinder seat in same to 5th in the body," and all this in a small meeting house, which most likely was made of Logs.

They opened their common fields about the 1st October, near a month earlier than is done at this day.—Town charges paid in produce. Rye 3s. Barley 3s. Oats 1s.

March, 1700.—The following is found on the same records:—"Notwithstanding persons have taken up several home lots upon Green River, under the sum of 8 acres apiece, yet, now the town hath hereby granted that all persons that have taken up lands, shall have 8 acres apiece in their home lots."

It was about these days that the people voted that every swine of 14 in. hie, found on the common fields, (after they were opened) should be liable to be impounded and the owners fined six pence per head, and to pay their school master $25 a year in grain.

In 1703, the town of Deerfield was destroyed by the French and Indians, under De Rouville. Great numbers were killed or carried away captive, among whom we find the names of Hinsdel, Hastings, Nims, Smead, Brooks, Corse, Denio, Wells.

This was in the reign of Anne, Queen of England, with whom the French were at war, and the French settlers in Canada, took the liberty of instigating the Indians to join them, and bring trouble upon these border settlers, who had never troubled them. The Indians would have never thought of stirring in this matter, but,

for these Frenchmen. The total population of the state was then estimated at 70,000, and that of Connecticut at 30,000, and the French population of Canada proper at only about 8500—Militia 1000.

A detailed and interesting account of the destruction of Deerfield at this period, may be found in Hoyt's Antiq. Researches, Chapt, XI. The force consisted of 200 French and 140 Indians. As at, probably, a later period, several forts were maintained in this village—the following description from that work may not be unacceptable to some readers who do not possess it:—

"The mode of fortifying in the frontier towns at this time was rude and imperfect, calculated merely for defence against slight attacks. In many cases single houses were surrounded with palisades of cleft or hewn timber planted perpendicular in the ground without ditches, and the larger works enclosing villages, were much of the same nature. In some cases single houses were constructed of square timber laid horizontally, and locked at the angles, and loop holes were pierced on every side for fireing upon an enemy. The walls of framed houses were commonly lined with brick, the upper story projected, and loop holes prepared to fire down upon the enemy in case of a close approach, &c. A work called a *mount*, was often erected at exposed points.—These were a kind of elevated block house affording a view of the neighboring country, and where they were wanting, sentry boxes were generally placed on the roofs of houses."

For a succession of years the records of the country and the records of tradition furnish little or nothing coming within our province. The number of inhabitants in this section of the country was then comparatively very small, and occupied, as they must have been, in the clearing of lands and making preparations for future comfort; harrassed by calls for military service, and the occasional incursions of Indians, little chance was af-

forded for the acquisition of property by the cultivation of the land, or in any other way. All their energies must have been, of necessity, constantly exerted for support and defence. Many of the young men were cut off by the wars and by diseases, and any other than a hardy and persevering race of men, fearless and determined, would have abandoned the contest with so much of privation and insecurity.

Rye had been for some time cultivated. In 1633, the first specimen of it was brought to the Court of Massachusetts as the first fruits of English grain. This "poor people," says Johnson, an early writer, "greatly rejoiced to see the land would bear it."

NOTE.—1704. The Boston News Letter, the first newspaper published in America, was issued this year. In 1685, in the reign of James the 2d. the first Postmaster of New England, Mr. Randolph, was appointed by the Lord Treasurer Rochester. The first Post Office was established in 1710. In 1717, the trade of this state employed 3493 sailors—492 ships, making 25,406 tons.—Duty on English goods, one per cent.

CHAPTER II.

PRIOR TO INCORPORATION.

Green River stream granted—Titles to land how obtained—Indians—Green River people's petition to be set off—Granted—Boundaries—Indian warfare—Forts—Petition renewed, granted, bounds stated—Committees report on south line, and locating Meeting House.

1713-14.—In January a grant was made by the proprietors to Capt. Wells, of the Green River Stream, to

set up a mill on the following conditions:—"The said Wells shall take for his toll the 14th part of Rye, the 16th part of wheat, the 12th part of corn, and other grain not specified; and by Michaelmas day they are to give said Wells fifty pounds more of money." The town reserved the privilege of setting a saw mill upon the same stream, "provided workmen of that occupation judge that a saw mill may be built there without damage to the corn mill; said Wells having the first offer of a place for a saw mill, and he restore the town his liberty to grant it to other men, they agreeing with said Capt. Wells upon such terms as indifferent men shall judge proper."

MILL.—"The town of Greenfield doe hereby grant unto sd Jona. Wells and to his heirs ye stream aforesaid so long as they shall maintain a corn mill upon it to doe ye towns work, notwithstanding ye town doth reserve to themselves a liberty to set a saw mill upon ye same stream provided workmen of ye occupation together wt a committee chosen by the town for ye purpose doe judge yt a saw mill may bee built there without any considerable damage to ye corn mill; he ye said Wells having the first offer of ye place for saw mill, &c. (not to be rated for said mill for town charges.")

"Articles of agreement made and concluded between Capt. Jona. Wells of D. Co. of H. in her majesties province of Ms. bay in New England on 1 part and the T of Deerfield.

Witnesses, ABL. BARNARD, MERCY CHILDS. TH. FFRENCH, Signd. ELIEZER HAWKS, THOS. WELLS,

1715. They voted to build a dam for Capt. J. Wells. The presumption is that a dam had been carried away by this mad stream, subject to sudden rise and irritation from small cause; it often has such freaks now.

1718. Green River grants. At a town Meeting in March, the proprietors appointed a committee to make

proposals to the town in order to the settlement of lands on Green River. Their report follows :—

"That whereas there Been formerly severall grants of lands unto particular persons on ye Green River, and no place mentioned where it shall be laid out, we do therefore propose that Jeremiah Hull, Samuel Smead, Wm. Brooks, Jos. Goddard, Robt. Goddard, John Severance, John Allyn, Edward Allyn, Benony More, Joseph Petty, Peter Evans, Michael Mitchell, Ebenezer Severance, Martin Kellogg, Zeb. Williams, have their grants laid out beginning at a brook called Brooks's brook, running from ye Green River westwardly, to ye swamp and so in breadth to make up their complement."

A committee was appointed to lay out said grants, "to Brooks 1st, the rest, above and below, as near as can be to places where said men pretend it should be." Commonage was to be allotted them in lands adjacent, proportioned to other proprietors; to build mansion houses on their lots on the town plat, within two years, and live on said lands three years, and if driven off by the Indians, a further time of five years was allowed them to make good their title. All having lands laid out west of Green River, were to maintain a fence sufficient to prevent cattle, &c. from crossing.

1719. A vote passed to lay out a road up the river to the Country farms.*

1720. It was voted to "build a new Scow on Town's charge, provided yt ye mill men, Cheapside or Green

* In the act granting the Township of Deerfield in 1673, a condition was that they should lay out a farm of 250 acres for the "country's use." What now is, and from early times has been, called country farms, in the N. W. part of the town, formed a part of it, and the road to it turned in at the gate beyond the house of Thos. Nims, Esq. What was first called the Country farms was a tract of land running east and west across the town, bounding north on Bernardston and Leyden; Captain Larabee *now owns* part of it.

River men will take care of it to prevent its going away, and if it be lost *thorrow* their carelessness, they to bear the loss of it; said scow to be delivered to them with sufficient chain or seizure to seize it withal." The ford or ferry then used was about three fourths of a mile west of D. R. bridge, as the river now runs. It was also agreed that all lands then laid out, and all suitable for improvement be brought into common field and fenced; "and as every one's property cannot be known, that part of said fence above mill brook be done at public charge." Committee, Eben. Smead, Eben Brooks, M. Hinsdill, chosen to sell for £50 to Jos. Atherton, tract or tracts of land to that value. Committee also chosen to see survey made, and take a plat of such lands there suitable to be laid out.

1722. On the records of this year is to be found "the proposal of the committee (1718) for stating and recording the lands on Green River granted to sundry persons." Twelve of these lots were 128 rods in length each, varying from 12 1-2 to 25 rods wide, from 10 to 20 acres each lot. Ten abutted on the west line of the town, two on Green River, east. Thirteen other lots, 80 to 100 rods long, 16 to 50 wide, 10 to 30 acres—East on Green River. 16 Grantees. This was the upper division, part of the contents of the seven miles square, extending east 12 rods.

INDIANS.—1724. On the 25th Aug. a number of men passing a little south of where the Court House now stands, discovered a number of Indians posted on a rising ground near by, apparently about opening a fire upon them. They, however, gave the Indians a shot and retreated to the mill near by, but one of their number, Deacon Samuel Field, was severely wounded. Some of his descendants are still in Deerfield, and have always maintained a highly respectable character. The late Samuel Field, Esq. was one of the earliest practitioners

of the law in this vicinity, a single minded, talented man. His writings attracted much attention by their wit and humor.

1727. A committee was chosen to "advise with men of skill concerning a bridge over D. River at Cheapside." It was afterwards, in Dec. voted to build one at the first turn in the river. This vote was negatived in 1728, and a "scow and 2 canoes" with anchors, substituted.

1730. Decided by vote, that men and their wives be seated together in the meeting house, and "to leave it with the seators to dignify the pews and seats." 1735. Bounty on skunks 6d, old crows 2s.

1738-9. Jan. 15, The inhabitants of Green River petitioned the town (Deerfield) to be set off as a separate Parish, which was refused. The population must then have been quite small, since in 1763, they numbered only 368, but their local situation was such in relation to the place of meeting as to render the granting of this request not only desirable but reasonable.

1743. The request was again renewed, as we find by the following vote on the records of Deerfield. Nov. 15. "Upon hearing the request of Green River inhabitants, &c. &c. the matter being fully debated, the question was put whether the town of Deerfield will set off said inhabitants as a town with the following bounds:—viz. North by the north bounds of the town—East by Conn. River—South by the 8000 acre line, so called, and a line west by the needle from the N. W. corner of said 8000 acres, so far as to the west side of the 7 miles square, and west by the west additional grant made to the town, and it passed in the affirmative."

NOTE.—Colrain was settled about 1740, by emigrants from Londonderry, N. H., perhaps part of the 100 families who had come there from the Province of Ulster, in Ireland, in 1719. They first introduced the foot spinning wheel and the culture of potatoes.

The petitioners asked that D. River should be the southern boundary, to extend up said river to Sheldon's brook; West by needle to the W. line of 7 miles square. Negatived. A vote also passed this year allowing Green River 40s old tenor, a Sabbath, to procure preaching there three months. There seems to have been, from causes unknown to us, no proceedings had in consequence of the vote to set off this town until ten years after, when the records of Greenfield first commenced and the town was incorporated. Perhaps the delay was occasioned by the breaking out of the war, which occurred soon after.

INDIAN WARFARE.—In the year 1744, the war between Eng. and France again commencing, the country was subjected anew to all the horrors of an Indian war. With their mode of warfare which was altogether peculiar to themselves, although those horrors which always attended it, were undoubtedly heightened by their connection with the French, every school boy is familiar, and it is unnecessary to describe or detail them here.—It does not appear from any record or tradition which has come within my research, that the inhabitants within our territory were in very many instances subjected to their inroads more than many or all the settlements, or that it was the theatre of many regular fights; yet for many years, the few residing here, went into the fields with a gun in one hand and the implements of husbandry in the other.

The females left at home in the forts, of which there were several, had loaded fire arms ready, and ready hands to use them in defence of themselves and their children, and kept a constant look out, "all eye, all ear," in constant expectation of the foe. It is also said that they practiced firing at a mark to render themselves expert in the use of arms. The present generation of females, whose hands seldom touch any thing more alarming than the needle or the keys of a piano, and

faint at the smell of gun powder, and are of the "don't meddle with the gun Billy" species, would be ill suited for such times as tried the resolution and fortitude of the dames of yore.

It appears by the records of Dedham, and otherwise, that the Indian titles to the lands here were extinguished by purchase, and also that the settlers received grants of them from the General Court; but the natives reserved the right of fishing and hunting, and gathering nuts on the commons.

RATIONS.—The rations allowed troops on the frontiers at this period, were—Garrison forces, 1 lb. bread per day, half pint peas or beans, 2 lbs. pork for three days, 1 gallon molasses for forty-two days. To marching forces, 1 lb. bread, 1 do. pork, 1 gill rum per day.

FORTS.—There was a fort at Adams; one on the highlands, now Rowe, called fort Pelham; at Heath, called Shirley. Several houses were stockaded at Colrain, Bernardston, Northfield, Dummerston, and in this town. For years previous to the Fall fight, scouting parties kept ranging from fort Dummer, to Adams, on the look-out for Indians, and to discover their trails, and companies of large dogs were employed in this service, and the Indians could not well pass these lines without discovery.

Lt. Oliver Atherton, who died in this town not many years ago, used to relate a thrilling incident which occurred to him about this period. He was required to go on express to Colrain fort. He was mounted on a spirited mare, and passing just beyond where Col. Sam-

NOTE.—There was a fort where the High School for Young Ladies now is; one where F. Ripley, Esq. has recently built a stone House; one near the house of the late Judge Leavitt; one nearly opposite the house of late Col. S. Wells, with a subterranean passage coming out at the brow of the hill, north.

uel Wells last lived; a little farther on was the meadow gate, there being no open road; the road sides were covered with trees and bushes. The mare suddenly snorted and otherwise gave such signs of fear as satisfied him she scented an Indian, and he gave himself up for lost, when he thought of the hindrance of the meadow gate. The faithful and sagacious animal did not fail her master in this his hour of utmost need. She darted forward with the rapidity of lightning, and so thrust her nose between the gate and post, as to remove the fastening, and passed directly on her way through the river without delay or slackening her pace, and he was not forward to check her onward career. It is most likely she received many encomiums on her arrival at the fort, and good horse meat and stabling, and still more likely that Atherton did not return alone, although a resolute and brave man. He often related the incident, and in his latter days the relating it affected him to tears.

A brief account of the fall fight in 1676, previous to any settlements being made here, and within the limits of what was afterwards Greenfield, now Gill, may be found under the title, Falls.

Nov. 1744. A vote was passed allowing "£30 old tenor, each year to Green River, £29 of which is paid for preaching already, and £12, more of said sum may be employed for preaching, if Green River people think it will be best, or otherwise the whole that is unpaid may be employed for keeping a school there.*"

They also voted to raise no more money for the garrisons than what had been already raised; chose a committee, Mr. Ashley and Dea. Childs, to go to Hadley, Northampton, and Hatfield, and state to the Representatives of those towns the burthens under which the people of this town labor and desire them to use their influ-

* The first, and for many years, the only School House in town, it is believed, was at the lower end of the main street, where Mr. Lamb lives.

ence with the General Court to have their taxes alleviated, and further to exert their influence to have the Court allow them for the charge the town has been at in building the forts and erecting the garrisons for their own defence as well as that of their neighbors; also that the town may have some soldiers sent to protect them from the enemy who are expected here from Crown Point before Spring.

The Government of Massachusetts took measures for the defence of the people against the incursions of the French and Indians; 500 men were impressed, of which number, 300 were for the eastern frontier, and 200 for the western.* The ordinary garrisons were reinforced, and 96 bbls. gun powder were sent to each town to be sold to them at cost and charges. In the spring the King's gift to Castle William, of 20 cannon of 42 lb. ball; 2 mortars of 13 inches, and all stores, gun powder excepted, opportunely arrived at Boston, and the Legislature voted to build a range of forts between Connecticut River and N. Y. boundary line. Maine then contained 2485 militia. The forts were to be built at Colrain, Shirley, Pelham and Adams.

In Dec. 1795, a committee was appointed to see what was proper to be done about fortifying Green River. On making their Report they were "directed to line the fort there on the east side, and so far on the north side 'till the house will defend it, and so at each side of the south gate, and also at each side of the well, to be lined with stockades, to be paid by the town if nothing should be granted by the province for forting, nor any alteration of the grant already made for fortifying." They subsequently received their pay from the Town Treasury. The same month a committee was chosen to petition the General Court, humbly and earnestly asking relief in their distressed circumstances with respect to the war; to take

* Holmes Am. Annals.

it into their wise and compassionate consideration, &c. &c.; to grant such protection as to enable them to defend themselves and families, and to carry on husbandry with some degree of safety.

In May, 1747, a petition was sent to the General Court asking for abatement of taxes in all or part, inasmuch as they "labored under great difficulties on account of the war, many of the inhabitants being thus drawn off, great quantities of improveable land being thus thrown up, and little profit arising from the rest from the cost of improving it.

Schools.—In Nov. 1749, the sum of 30s old tenor, was granted per week to the school dames, at Green River, for their services the past summer. Twenty shillings, old tenor, was allowed for a day's work in summer, and fourteen for spring and fall work, so great was the depreciation of the currency. In consequence of this depreciation, the salary of Mr. Ashley, which in 1747, had been raised from £130 to £450, was in 1748, raised to £800. The next year school money was allowed Green River two months, besides three months for winter.

Jan. 3, 1753. In answer to the petition of Green River people, this day presented to the town, requesting that they might be set off into a separate district or precinct by such metes and bounds as may be thought proper for them and us, &c.

The town voted that they are willing and do consent that they should be set off into a separate district or precinct, provided their bounds and limits be as follows: viz. to begin at the north east corner of the township on Connecticut river, and to proceed southerly on said river until they come to the line of the 8000 acres, and then proceed westward on said line to the west end of the first tier of lots west of the seven mile line, and from thence to proceed northerly, taking in said line to the end of our bounds, and then to go east on the town line until

they come to the first mentioned boundary on Connecticut river.

COMMITTEE TO SETTLE SOUTH LINE, &c.—On the 2d day of April, 1753, at a town meeting held at Deerfield it was voted:

That Col. Oliver Patridge, Dr. Samuel Mather, and Dr. Eben Hunt, be desired to consider and determine where the dividing line shall be between the town and the proposed district on the north side of Deerfield river, and also to consider and determine where the Meeting House shall be placed in said district, and also to consider and determine whether the allotted and divided lands in said *lands* shall be subjected to a tax towards building a Meeting House and settling a minister, and if they think it proper it should be taxed, then what tax it shall pay per acre per annum, and for how many years, and also to determine what part of the public tax they shall have laid on them, and also what part of the sequestered land they shall be entitled to, and for what term; in all these things to act and determine as if there had been no votes of the town previous to this with regard to said land or district with respect to the boundaries.

It was also voted that said committee shall be paid for their trouble by the town, if the committee shall bring their south line further south than the town have voted it already, and if they do not, then the inhabitants of Green River to pay them.

AARON DENIO, was then chosen, or rather a vote was passed that he be requested to notify the gentlemen of their being chosen, and "get them to do the business they are chosen for," and Messrs. Elijah Williams, Aaron Denio, Capt. John Catlin, Eben. Wells, 2d were

NOTE.—In 1752, a committee was appointed to look out and make a road to Charlemont and to Huntstown, (Ashfield,) and to clear the road from logs and bushes fit for a riding road.

chosen a committee "in behalf of the town to wait on the committee before chosen and let them know what is expected they will take into consideration, and to acquaint them with the lands as far as they are able."

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.—April 18, 1753. In compliance with the above instructions we met at the town of Deerfield upon the 9th day of said April, and on the next day we proceeded to view the lands proposed for a district, being attended by a committee of said town, two whereof belonged to the old town, and two to the proposed district. After we had made a thorough view of the lands by passing through the same in various places, we heard the allegations of the committee on both sides upon the articles above mentioned, and having maturely considered the same, do adjudge and determine it to be reasonable that the said district be set off in the manner following: viz.

That a line be run as far north as a line known by the name of the 8000 acre line, to run from Connecticut river west to the west end of the first tier of lots which lie west of the seven mile line, so called, thence north, nineteen degrees east, to the northerly side of the town bounds, thence east on the town line to Connecticut river, thence as said river runs to the first bounds. We further judge it reasonable that the lands lying in a certain meadow or interval which lies north of Deerfield river, known by the name of Cheapside, which belongs to Timothy Childs, Jr. and David Wells, who dwell in said proposed district, should pay taxes to said district when set off. We are further of opinion, that a tax of one penny farthing per acre, lawful money be levied upon the unimproved lands in said district, as soon as a frame of a meeting house be erected, and a further tax of one penny per acre upon said unimproved lands so soon as a minister is settled in said district, to be employed for building a meeting house and settling a minister.

We have also fixed the place for erecting a meeting house at a place called Trap plain,* where we have fixed a white oak stake. We further judge it reasonable that the same proposition of the county tax laid on the town of Deerfield, hereafter be paid by the said district when set off as was levied upon the inhabitants and rateable estates in the limits of said district for the last tax, and that the said district have the improvement of one half of the sequestered lands in said town of Deerfield lying north of Deerfield river.

OLIVER PARTRIDGE,
SAMUEL MATHER,
EBEN'R HUNT.

Deerfield, April 12, 1753.

At a town meeting held at Deerfield in December following, a committee was appointed to divide the sequestered land or the income of it, north of Deerfield river, with the minister and people of Greenfield, or to do what shall be necessary in order to accomplish and settle the improvement of the said sequestered land.

In Feb. 1754, at a town meeting, the town of Deerfield "voted that the town do give and grant to the inhabitants of Greenfield the same proportionable part of the rents of the town land on the north side of Deerfield river, as they of the said district pay to the Province tax in consideration of the charge they are at for preaching, provided the said district will accept of the same, and that they do by their vote, at a meeting called for the purpose, give the town of Deerfield a discharge from all demands that they have in, and to the said rents for the year past, which the town votes as a free gift and not any thing they are by law enjoined to."

* Where ——— Flagg, Esq. and L. H. Long reside.

CHAPTER III.

Record of first Meeting.—Annals of the Town.—Sequestered Lands.—Difficulties with the Mother Town.

1753. The act incorporating the Green river people into a town is not found upon the records of this year.—The first record is that of a warrant for a meeting of the inhabitants and the proceedings under it, which are inserted to show who were the prominent men of that day, and as a curiosity, in one respect at least. This town then included the present town of Gill. We have no means of determining the population accurately, but as at a period some years subsequent, it was only three hundred and sixty-eight, we may presume it not to have much exceeded three hundred and twenty-five, if so much.

"Hampshire ss. To Ensign Ebenezer Smead, of the district of Greenfield in the County of Hampshire, Greeting. You are hereby required in his Majesties name, to warn all the freeholders and other inhabitants of said district qualified by law to vote the choice of district officers to meet to gather att the house of James Corse in said district, on Tuesday the third day of July next, at one of the clock in the afternoon, then and there, after a moderator is chosen, to choose all such officers as by law are to be chosen for the managing the affairs of sd district, also, to doo what shall be thoat Nessessary to be done in order to provide preaching in sd district. Hereof fail not and make return of this warrant att the time and place aforesd. Given under my hand and seal att Deerfield this twenty six day of June 1753 Elijah Williams who am by law authorisd to Grant this warrant."

"Att a Legal Town or District meeting held Greenfield July third 1753

1. Benjamin Hastings was chosen Moderator, voted that

2. Benjamin Hasting should be Town Clark.

3. Voted Missrs Ebenezer Smead Samuel Hinsdell and Daniel Nash to be Selectmen and Assessors.

4. Voted that Eben. Arms should be Town Treasurer.

5. Benjamin Hastings should be Cunstable.

6. Missrs Nathanill Brooks and Shubael Atherton to be tithing men.

7. Missrs James Corse Jona. Smead and Ebenezer Wells to be Fence viewers.

8. Voted Messrs Amos Allen and Ebenezer Wells to be Surveyors of the Highways.

9. Mr. Aaron Denio should be dearreaf.*

10. James Corse and Amos Allin should be hogreafs.

11. Joshua Wells should be sealer of weights and measures.

12. Benjamin Hastings should be sealer of Leather.

13. Messrs Thomas Nims† and Gad Corse should be Field Drivers.

14. Daniel Graves Daniel Nash and Aaron Denio be

NOTE,—The people were notified of the hours of meeting on the Sabbath, and other days, by the beating of the drum, for which one year £4. 10s was paid, (old tenor) —in 1756, 4s only. James Corss, lived first where C. J. J. Ingersoll lives, in a log house or fort—after where Maj. J. Smead lives.

* Deer-reeve. The hunting of Deer is still regulated by a law passed in 1807. Penalty for killing between 1st Jan and 1st Aug. $14. Same for killing deer at any time in Barnstable County.

† Ancestor of Lt. Hull Nims of this town, of the family of Godfrey Nims, one of the first settlers of Deerfield. The place he first occupied is still owned by his descendants—the heirs of late Dea. Seth Nims.

a committee to supply us with preaching for the present year." Such is the record of the first meeting.

MINISTER.—At a subsequent meeting, the 16th day of August was set apart as a day of prayer and fasting. Mr. Ashley of Deerfield, Mr. Ashley of Sunderland, Mr. Abercrombie of Pelham, clergymen, were "invited to assist in the work of the day and give their advice for some meet person to settle in the work of the ministry." At another meeting, the same month, a commttee was chosen to "take the advice or approbation" of a number of ministers—viz. Mr. Edwards of Stockbridge, Hopkins of Sheffield, Williams of Long Meadow, Hall of Sutton, Ashley of D., Ashley of S., Abercrombie of Pelham, "with respect to the Quallifications or fitness of Mr. Edward Billings for the work of the ministry in Greenfield."

CALL.—Sept. 24, following, the town voted to give him a call. Daniel Nash and Timothy Childs* were "the committee to acquaint him of it." Call accepted.

WAGES. SCHOOLS.—The wages "of persons that have done service for this district" were fixed at two shillings for summer, per day, and one shilling and four pence for the fall. A committee was chosen to provide the district with a school and school house. As in nearly all the towns of N. England, so in this, immediately after a settlement commenced, the inhabitants turned their thoughts and care to the providing for the preaching of the Gospel and the establishment of schools.—Their particular and anxious attention and care on these subjects formed a distinguishing trait in their character.

1754. Three houses were picquetted at the expense of the town, viz. Joshua Wells,' James Corss,' and Shubael Atherton's, for a protection against the incursions of the Indians.

* Capt. Childs lived where Dea. T. Stoughton now lives in Gill, just above the Falls.

1755. Roads.—They voted to repair the King's highways and none else; also to petition the General Court for some relief, and a meeting was ordered to be warned to choose a Representative. Benj. Hastings* and Ebenezer Smead were a committee to carry on the petition. It does not appear that a Representative was chosen.

1756. Rev. Mr. Billings leased to the district one half of the sequestered land in Deerfield, lying in town swamp west meddow and point Judah, "during the time of his ministry for £13. 6s 8d."

Indians.—1756. In the early part of this year war was formally declared between France and England, though hostilities had existed in the previous year by which the colonies suffered considerably. The war between them and the natives in New England, at this period, and most of those, with the exception of King Phillips, were occasioned by the quarrels between France and England. On the occurrence of these, the French incited the Indians to commit cruelties and depredations upon the colonists. In the early part of this year the Indians hovered about these frontier settlements, and the people petitioned Government for aid. Small forces were stationed at the forts at Northfield, Deerfield, in this town, and other places, as well as on the line of forts. A party of Indians had posted themselves on the hill near the Asher Corss farm, now owned by Mr. Hart Larabee. The people from other parts of the town improved lands there, and at this time a stack of flax was piled and stood on the ground near a field of grain. They placed their guns against the flax, which was undoubted-

* Mr. Hastings owned a tract of land running nearly through the town from the north to the south. His house stood on the rising ground a little west of Mr. Abner Wells' at Stocking Fort, on land now of Mr. E. W. Kingsley. A giant elm lately stood near the spot.

ly seen by the Indians. The men were Benjamin Hastings, John Graves, Daniel Graves, Shubal Atherton and Nathaniel Brooks. The Indians skulked in this field of grain, and coming near, crawled like snakes, as was plainly to be perceived afterwards by the impressions left in the field, and got between them and their guns; they fled on the instant and were fired upon; but the fire took no effect. Hastings and John Graves fled across the river, to what is called Irish plain, where Col. Smead and Capt. Smead now live, and came out at the Arms farm, where Mr. Thayer now lives. Hastings said the fern growing there was as high as his waist, but he went over the top of the whole of it. Few of our modern bucks, tho' they sometimes drive furiously, as did Jehu of old, would with their best trotters, have performed the tour as quick. Atherton concealed himself in some brushwood under the river bank, or in a hollow place near it, but the Indians were so hot in their pursuit that he did not escape their notice and he was shot. Daniel Graves and Brooks were taken. Graves was old, infirm and ill able to travel. He was killed soon after they left the spot and near the saw mill, at a short distance from the Glen. Brooks never returned. The people of this village soon rallied, joined by Maj. Williams and others from Deerfield, and followed in pursuit of the Indians, but without success.

1757. The General Court was petitioned for an abatement of taxes. 1759. The road running west from the Gill road to Nash's mill was laid out.

MEETING HOUSE.—1760. The people began to make preparations and gather materials for building a meeeting house, 50 by 40. It was rough boarded only, and so remained for many years, and was, like others in the couutry, without pews or slips.

MINISTRY.—A call was given to Mr. Bulkley Olcott to settle in the ministry. They offered him as salary,

the first year, £66. 13s. 4d. to rise £1. 6s. 8d. yearly, till the sum amount to £80. The call was not accepted.

1761. In August a call was given to Mr. Roger Newton and accepted. A particular account of this part of our history will be found under title—Ecclesiastical.

ROADS.—In 1763, a road was laid from the west end of the village to the Country Farm, and voted to do ten days work on it; also on the road from the meeting house, north.

Deerfield, Feb. 22, 1758.

TOWN LANDS.—"Then the Selectmen of Deerfield and Greenfield met and jointly agreed upon a division of the town land so called, which is as follows—viz. that the west meddow, Judahs point and the following land on Fort Hill belongs to Deerfield town the present year, and the rest to the district of Greenfield and to exchange yearly until a further agreement; also that the plowing land belonging to the town swamp be sowed with Dutch clover, and the peace by the river in the west meddow this year."

JOSEPH STEBINS, DANIEL NASH, DANIEL ARMS, } *Selectmen.* { JONATHAN SEVERANCE, JOHN ARMS, SAMUEL WELLS.

SCHOOLS.—1763. A vote was passed to "hire a school the year round." In 1764, £13. 6s. was raised for schools to be divided upon the scholar. There were only three districts, one in the village, at the old meeting house, and at or near Nash's mills. In 1767, the town was divided into seven districts for schools.—"One in the street, three in the meadows, one by Noah Allins, one in N. E. corner, one at Ensign Childs', (at the Falls,) and but one school master, and he to move to each district according to ye proportion, and to have a school dame the other six months, and she to keep school in ye several districts according to their proportion. All

the masters and dames that are improved to be approved by the Selectmen." £20, raised for schools, and the meeting house was glazed.

SEQUESTERED LANDS. DIFFICULTIES WITH THE MOTHER TOWN.—1768. It has been seen that the town was incorporated in 1753, but the report of the committee and the act of incorporation do not appear upon the town records until this year, about sixteen years after it was passed. Disputes and contentions arose respecting the sequestered lands, and we are informed by tradition, that an affray took place between individuals of the two towns. when they fought with their rakes and pitchforks, on the lands, for the possession of the crops. The following vote, found on the records of the towns, show somewhat relating thereto.

At a meeting held March 25—S. Hinsdale Moderator—a vote was passed, "to take best advice we can get with respect to our holding or keeping the sequestered lands for ye use of the ministry in Deerfield, and if we can have proper Incoragement, to stand a tryal in the law for the same." S. Hinsdale, Amos Allen, Ebenezer Wells were chosen a committee to prosecute the affair according to their best skill and judgement. David Wells and Jona. Severance were added to the committee.

Deerfield, 1768.

SAME SUBJECT.—March 28th, as appears by the records of the town of Deerfield, a committee was raised "to make application in behalf of the town, to some gentleman versed in the law, respecting the EXPEDIENCY of the town making an attempt in the LAW, to get into the town's use and improvement that part of the sequestered lands which are now, and have been for a number of years past, improved by the district of Greenfield, and make report of their doings," &c.

In this town, May, 29, 1769, a committee was chosen

(Benj. Hastings, Samuel Hinsdale, Aaron Denio, Amos Allen, Eben. Wells, J. Severance, David Wells,) "to prefer a petition to the General Court to make a new act with regard to our being set off from ye town of Deerfield sd act to be made agreeable to the Report of the committee that was mutually chosen by the Town and us for that purpose sd Report being accepted by the Town and district." EBEN WELLS, Moderator.

As the act of incorporation and the conduct of the parties in relation to it, was made for a long time the subject of violent controversy between the inhabitants of the different territories, the effects of which are yet hardly dissipated, the circumstances by which it was preceded and followed, deserve a distinct consideration. Any professed history of Greenfield, which should omit facts which our fathers deemed so important and which furnished them so long with materials for excitement and complaint, would be justly chargeable with imperfection; and however unpleasant portions of the duty may be which I take upon myself, I cannot honestly escape from its full performance. Happily, though there is much of tradition connected with this subject, the principal facts are engraved upon public records, which leave little opportunity for mistake or coloring.

Long before the act of incorporation it became obvious that the interests of the inhabitants required that the northern portion of the old town of Deerfield, should be for the purpose of municipal government separated from the remainder. In this, all concurred, but the difficulty was, as to where the line should be established. Both parties contended earnestly for "Cheapside," the inhabitants of the northern portion maintaining that the Deerfield river opposite the place, was the natural boundary, which mutual convenience and benefit required should be recognized as the line of separation, while on the other side it was insisted with equal warmth, and no doubt

from a feeling of honorable pride, that the line ought to be so fixed as to include in Deerfield all of the just grants of land to the proprietors of Pocomtuck. It was found impossible to settle this dispute without the aid of disinterested arbitrators. Accordingly, at a legal meeting of the inhabitants of Deerfield, April 2, 1753, it was voted that Col. Oliver Partridge, of Hatfield, Doct. Samuel Mather of ——— and Lieut. Ebenezer Hunt of Northampton, be desired "to determine where the dividing line shall be between the town and the proposed district, on the north side of Deerfield river, and also to consider and determine various other subjects, among which was "also that part of the sequestered land they" (the new district) "shall be entitled to, and for what term;" and a committee of four, of whom two belonged to the southern portion of the town—viz. Elijah Williams and John Catlin, and two to the proposed district—viz. Aaron Denio and Ebenezer Wells, were appointed to wait upon the Referees on the examination. The Referees, who were men of high character and consequence, went upon the ground the 10th of April, attended by the committee, and having fully heard the parties, made an award, by which the town of Deerfield engaged to abide in the division. The award was that the line should be as insisted upon by the old town, but with certain conditions and provisions in favor of the proposed district by way of compensation. The act creating the new district of Greenfield, was passed only two months afterwards, and follows, almost literally the award, excepting as to these provisions in favor of the district; which are so altered and limited in the act, contrary to the agreement of the parties, as to destroy almost entirely their purpose and effect.—These provisions are these—relating

1st. To the sequestered lands.

2d. To the taxation of the meadow land in Cheapside.

The Referees decided that "the said district of Greenfield have the use and the improvement of one half of the sequestered lands in the said town of Deerfield, being north of Deerfield river," and this forever, for there is no limitation of the provision, either in the award or the acceptance of it by the town of Deerfield.

The act, on the contrary, is that "the said district shall have the improvement of one half of the sequestered lands on the north side of Deerfield river until there shall be another district or parish made out of the said town of Deerfield"—thus introducing, contrary to the stipulations of the parties, a limitation to this enjoyment, not authorised by the award, and which the Referees afterwards testified was "entirely contrary to their intent and meaning."*

Again, the award provided that "the lands lying in a certain meadow or interval which lies north of Deerfield river, which is known by the name of Cheapside, which belong to Timothy Childs and David Wells, who dwell in the said proposed district, shall pay taxes to the said district." This was also without limitation, and the construction of the award of course, was, as was also the agreement of Deerfield in accepting it, that these lands should be so taxed forever. But this stipulation was also violated in the charter, which enacts that "the lands in a certain interval or meadow called Cheapside, which do now belong to Timothy Childs, Jr. and David Wells, shall pay their taxes in said district, so long as

* This limitation was not only contrary to the agreement of the parties, but clearly inequitable and absurd. If it had been provided that on the incorporation of a new district, a new division should have taken place, in which the new district should share, it would have had a semblance of justice, but the construction here is not that when a new district should be incorporated that should have its share with Deerfield and Greenfield, but that then Deerfield should reserve the whole.

they are owned by any person living in said district." The effect of this limitation of the second right of the district, also introduced into the charter contrary to the agreement founded upon the award, is sufficiently obvious. If Mr. Childs or Mr. Wells should move down upon their own farms (which comprised the principal part of the meadow at Cheapside, besides the sequestered lands) or if these farms should go into the hands of any person not an inhabitant of Greenfield, tho' but for an instant, the right of taxation by Greenfield would be lost forever—for if once lost, it could not be resumed though the lands should again belong to inhabitants of Greenfield; and such has been the exact practical effect of it, and it is to be remarked as showing the case with which the limitation was introduced, that it is exactly in the words, i. e. "so long as," which legal writers have recommended as having the effect, and which have received a settled judicial interpretation.

The first question arose as to the sequestered lands which embraced something more than thirty acres of meadow, worth now about $5000. It would seem that the inhabitants of the district of Greenfield were not aware of the variations between the award and charter till 1787. This is to be inferred not only from their own language so often repeated after that time, but from the facts appearing upon their own records. Soon after the passage of the act, the magistrate of Deerfield, who was named in it, called a meeting of the inhabitants, the full record of which is preserved upon their books. They organized by the choice of their officers, but it does not appear that the act was read to them—certainly there was no vote in relation to it, nor does the record contain it or a single allusion to its provisions. After the incorporation of the new district of Conway, it was brought for the first time to the notice of Greenfield and spread upon its book of records—and then follow the complaints of wrong, and injury, and fraud, which no one, acquainted

with their character, can doubt would have been heard earlier, if the facts had come earlier to their knowledge; and it is to be remembered that Greenfield had no representative in the Legislature till after the Revolution, when by the provisions of the constitution she became entitled to the rights of a town. Till 1767, the parties had governed themselves by the award, which each had upon its books, as the rule of its conduct. They had amically divided the sequestered lands, each improving its half and maintained all its provisions as to taxation. But in this year, the limitation as to the sequestered land having taken effect by the incorporation of the new district of Conway, Deerfield demanded the relinquishment of that part which had been up to this time improved by Greenfield, and which by the agreement of the parties she was to enjoy forever. This demand was resisted on the part of Greenfield to the last, and it is said that the contest was not carried on in words only. In the summer of 1768, the agents of Deerfield took possession of the land, and mowed it, and each party went on in strong force to take away the hay, and an encounter took place between them, in which, it is said, clubs and pitchforks were freely resorted to. The Greenfieldites were successful in carrying off the greater portion of the hay, and the town of Deerfield immediately commenced against them individually several actions of trespass *quare clausum*, for entering upon the land, which were defended at the expense of the district. The trial of the first case was thoroughly contested, and made it most manifest that the legal rights were as clearly one way, as the equitables were the other. Greenfield insisted upon her right acquired under the award, and the deliberate agreement of the other party to fulfil it, but the court very properly decided that as ministers of the law, they could only look to the act of incorporation—that it was a public and not a private law, which they had no power to overturn, and if there was any fraud or vio-

lation of previous contract between the parties attending its passage, the remedy of Greenfield was with the Legislature, not with the Courts, which must carry out the act as they found it. All the suits were afterwards compromised by the payment of $40.

During the pendency of these suits, Greenfield had made her appeal to the Legislature. At a meeting of the district, May 29, 1769. Lieut. Benj. Hastings, Samuel Hinsdale, Aaron Denio, Amos Allen, Ebenezer Wells, Jonathan Severance and David Smead, were appointed a committee, with directions "to prefer a petition to the General Court to make a new act with regard to our being set off from the town of Deerfield—sd act to be made agreeable to the report of the committee, which was mutually chosen by the town and us for that purpose; sd report being accepted by the town and district."

The committee performed their duty. They drew up a petition, in which the variances between the award and the charter were fully and ably presented, and entered the same on the 27th day of March, 1770. They afterwards filed with the petition, by leave, the following certificate of the Referees.

"Whereas, we the subscribers were appointed by the town of Deerfield, in the year 1753, to consider and determine in what manner the district of Greenfield should be set off from the town of Deerfield, and among other things to determine what part of the sequestered lands in Deerfield, the said district, when set off should be entitled to and for what term of time, which article we took under consideration as by our report appears, and we did determine that it was reasonable that the said district should have the improvement of the one half of the sd sequestered lands lying north of Deerfield river, without limitation of any time, &c., and now being desired to signify the understanding we then had of the affair—we do now say, that it was our design and intent that the sd

district should forever thereafter hold and improve part of the sd lands, and having seen the act of incorporation of the district of Greenfield and the limitation therein made with respect to the improvement of the sd sequestered lands, which we freely declare is entirely contrary to what was our intent and meaning.

OLIVER PATRIDGE,
SAMUEL MATHER,
EBENEZER HUNT,"

December 29, 1770.

It will be recollected that the Legislature then consisted of the Governor, appointed by the King and his council, who could be appointed only by his concurrence which formed one branch of the General Court—and the Representatives of the people, which formed the other. This matter was before the General Court several years and on every important vote, the Governor and Council were on the side of Deerfield, while the Representatives of the people always recognised the agreement as equitably binding upon the parties, and maintained that Greenfield had been wronged, and should be redressed. It will be seen by the report in council that they did not deny the contract, or the fairness of the award, but set up certain technical objections, as to the power of Deerfield to make the agreement, &c. which have indeed no more foundation in law than in reason.

Of the probable motives which governed the different parties, there has been much speculation, but we know little. As the charter could not be altered without the concurrence of both branches, nothing was done. The war of the revolution came soon afterwards, and our fathers forgot this excitement in the higher promptings of patriotism. They gave their whole hearts to the cause of their country.

The act of incorporation and papers relating to other

matters, mentioned in the foregoing sketch, may be found in the appendix.

In Dec. 1770, the town of Deerfield appointed a committee to agree with one from this town as to all matters of controversy between them respecting town lands, "more especially, all matters of trespass committed by the inhabitants of sd district from 1768 to the present time, and to make final settlement of all matters or actions in law, judgement and executions, that have already commenced or been recovered against any person or persons for trespass," &c. &c.

In 1771, a committee was chosen to meet and agree with a committee from Deerfield all matters of controversy respecting town land, and all matters of trespass, &c. These were adjusted and a discharge given by Deerfield for £40, with a reservation that nothing therein written should effect the title to the land.

Mr. Sewell was chosen agent for the town to act for them at the General Court with respect to the town land. Again, in 1772, Samuel Hindsdale was appointed to prefer a petition to the General Court, that Greenfield incorporation bill might be repealed and the town be incorporated into a Parish unless they might be entitled to all the privileges and emoluments agreeable to the report of the committee appointed by Deerfield for that purpose, which report was confirmed by a vote of that town. Samuel Barnard, Jr. and J. Adams, Esq. of Braintee were added, by a vote of Deerfield, to their agents, to manage the controversy with this town before the General Court.

Nothing further appears upon the records respecting this subject until the year 1782, when the subject was again brought before the town.

PUBLIC WORSHIP.—1772. A vote was passed to finish the meeting house the following year. Many houses of worship at this period were without pews and

the audience were accommodated with benches ranged about the house. The singing for a long period was conducted after a manner which is now called "deaconing," and was on this wise;—The singers were dispersed about the meeting house, having no place assigned them, by themselves. After the minister had read the psalm, he repeated the first line which the singers sang, the Deacon then took up the matter and read the next line, which went through a like process as before had befallen the first line, and so on. In some towns, meetings were held on the subject. At Worcester a town meeting was called in 1726, to see "in which way the congregation shall sing in future in public, whether in the ruleable way or in the usual way;" the former was adopted, not without opposition. The mode of reading prevailed in Boston and throughout New England, until about the year 1780.*

In 1773, "Voted that age, state (estate) and qualifications to be the rule for seating the meeting house. A committee was chosen to draw up something to send to the committee of Correspondence at Boston," also £20 for a school; £320 to pay town debts.

In 1774, "Voted £42 for town debts, and to divide the town into squadrons for the best advantage for the public schools."

Sept. 1774. At a full meeting, Samuel Hinsdale, Ensign Timothy Childs, Daniel Nash, Ebenezer Arms, Thos. Nims, Samuel Wells, Benj. Hastings, chosen committee, some one or more of them to attend the Provincial or County Congress. Oct. Daniel Nash, delegate to Prov. Congress to be held at Concornd the 11th inst.

There had been much excitement and trouble in the Province, previous to this time on account of the oppressive acts of the British Government, and among others

* Lincoln's Hist. Worcester.

the duty on tea—the detested Bohea, as it was expressed, which, notwithstanding many towns had passed Resolutions that they would not purchase any articles of British Merchandize, except medicines, was still secretly made use of by many, fastening up their doors while using it, but the more patriotic made use of infusions of mint, Sage, &c. The operation of the Port Bill also, by which the port of Boston was precluded from shipping, or landing Goods, and was closed up, put an end to business and produced great distress, with many other grievances, were the causes of the Congress at Concord.

CHAPTER IV.

Remarks.—Revolutionary Times and Incidents.

From the character of the matter in the preceding chapters, I apprehend very few readers will follow my pen, page by page, to the commencement of this; that few have had patience to follow out, and be with me to the close of the last. Such annals are to most readers dry and uninviting, and gladly would I have omitted many details, if, consistently, I could have done so. Patience should be ranked high in the list of cardinal virtues, and is of inestimable value to the poor and unfortunate; unblessed by its influence and the smiles of the enchantress, hope, life would be, to many, an insupportable burthen; and that too, to some, who to us seem happy, or in whose circumstances we can see nothing to mar their felicity—but whose hearts are full of bitterness. Be our condition what it may, we are then only correct, when we envy no one, and make the best we may of our own. The clouds and mists which now, perchance,

obscure the horizon of our prospects, hovering over the mountain summits, descending even to their base, almost blotting out, as to us, the source of light, may break and disperse; a bow of promise appear, and our sun may set in unclouded majesty and splendor. He who tempers the wind to the shorn lamb, may send a healing balm to cleanse and cure the wounds inflicted by the poisoned arrows of adversity. Let your motto be

Durate, et vosmet rebus servate secundis.*

I advised the reader in the third paragraph of the first chapter, that the subject was dry and uninviting—and gave sufficient intimation that the volume would be so; thus far my promise or prediction has been fulfilled to the letter. Let him apply the patience I have recommended, to the preceding chapters, and then——to all the remainder; from the mass of chaff, some grains of wheat may be winnowed.

1775. A period of powerful and all absorbing interest in the history of our country had now arrived, and the people were called upon to decide, each for himself, a question of great moment and consequence. Our records are almost barren of any local incident relating to it. The population of the town was then very small. It appears however from what is known, that they were, with very few exceptions, ardently engaged in the cause. That there were not more exceptions, considering the strength and power of the British and the ties of blood, the weakness, poverty and embarrassment, and the scattered state of the population, wearied and vexed by their sufferings in the Indian and French wars, is surprising. Every leading and important event of this Revolution is so well known, even to the school boy, so much has been said and sung, and related even in common every day conversation, and in every 4th Ju-

* With patience persevere and reserve yourselves for prosperous days.

ly Oration narrated, and re-narrated for the ten thousandth time, that it would be worse than superfluous, (in the humble compilation of the history of a town not five miles square, and which only a few years previous (1763) contained a population of 368 men, women, boys, girls, maiden ladies and little children, all told) to deal in lofty language, or enact any raptures on the subject.

The towns were repeatedly called upon during the war for articles of clothing and men for the service, of which this town, as appears by their records, furnished their quota. I have chosen generally to give the very language of the record, in some cases for brevity sake, in others to show their manner of expression, &c. as matter of curiosity, which may give to this work the appearance, to some, of a dry, dull tedious detail, barren of interest. The reader has a remedy in his own hands—a choice he can exercise to the full, by laying down the book.

"On the 19th April, an express came to Worcester, shouting as he passed through the street at full speed, 'to arms! to arms! the war is begun!' His white horse bloody with spurring, and dripping with sweat, fell exhausted by the church. The bells rang out the alarm, cannons were fired, the implements of husbandry thrown by in the field, and all seized their arms. The passage of the messenger of war, mounted on a white steed and gathering the population to battle, made vivid impression on memory. The tradition of his appearance is preserved in many of our villages. In the animated description of the aged, it seems like the representation of death on the pale horse, careering through the land with his terrific summons to the grave.'*"

The news spread over the country and the battle of Lexington occurred soon after. What part of our pop-

*Lincoln's Hist. Worcester.

ulation joined the army of that time we are uninformed. The 2d Congress was held in May and resolved upon measures of defence, and to make common cause with New England, organized the higher departments of the army, emit bills of credit, and the twelve states became confederate.

A vote is found on record, at this time, to raise 100 pounds powder and lead each, in addition to town stock on hand.

In the midst of the commotions of war, the people are found peaceably proceeding to seat their meeting house by a committee, by age and estate. This was a business to which a good deal of importance was attached, and often the occasion of much heart burning, hard feeling and difficulty. "Each man to model his estate as he sees fit in his own family; the first three in the list shall have the first choice in the pews. They that choose the great pew or either of the north corner pews shall have the next on the list put in with them, and so till we get through the house. One year's age shall be equal to £3 of estate. No minor shall be seated for any estate; males shall be seated from 16 years and upwards—females from 14."

Immediately after the battle of LEXINGTON the towns received circulars by express or otherwise, and the people of this town assembled *instanter*, on the afternoon of the day on which the intelligence was received. It is related of one individual, Mr. Elijah Mitchell, that being in the village at the time, he went home on foot, a mile or more west, and returned with his equipments, ready to march, in fifteen minutes from the time he started.—The suddenness of the gathering, reminds us of Scott's beautiful description of the gathering of a Scottish clan, summoned in the hour of danger, by the rapid passage over hill and dale of the cross of fire sending far around its beacon light.

"Fast as the fatal symbol flies,
In arms the huts and hamlets rise
From winding glen, from upland brown
They poured each hardy tenant down.
The fisherman forsook the strand,
The swarthy smith took dirk and brand,
With changed cheer, the mower blithe
Left in the half cut swathe his scythe.
The herds without a keeper strayed,
The plough was in mid furrow stayed."

There were two militia companies, one of which, under Capt. Agrippa Wells, met in the village, and the other at the north meeting house under Capt. Ebenezer Wells.

A great number assembled at the meeting house.—With few exceptions, this assembled throng, the bowed with age, and the stripling with scarce the down upon his cheek, were ardent in the patriot cause; the ardor spread from heart to heart

"Like fire to heather set,"
Like fire among the autumnal woods,

as the story was told, that American blood had been shed by the British soldiery.

It was immediately proposed that Thomas Loveland, the drummer, should take a station on the horse block under an elm at the south side of the common, and beat the long roll for volunteers. It was accordingly done, and sounded far and wide among the woods and fields. The officers of the company, Capt. E. Wells, Lt. Allen, and Ens. J. Severance were there, but stood aloof, dissuading from the adventure as savouring of treason and rebellion against the Government. They had not made up their minds to join the patriot cause. But the long roll of Thomas Loveland had done its work. The younger "had heard of battles, and doubtless, longed to follow to the field some warlike Lord," and while their zeal animated by the elder, from whose eyes came like a meteor fire the spirit of patriotism, and their frames,

inspired with a new vigor; to all the voice of the blood of their brethren, cried from the ground, avenge our cause on a brutal soldiery! Among these men was Aaron Denio. There was an overwhelming majority for the contest. We can see their eager, anxious, determined countenances, and significant, animated gestures. The cautious advice of their respected, and beloved officers, hitherto listened to with respect and obediently followed was now no more regarded than the passing breeze, or the twittering of the swallow, and the crickets nightly song.

Upon the first beating of the long roll, first and foremost stood out, that hardy, industrious and bold yeoman Benjamin Hastings, a William Wallace in intrepidity and determined bravery. Who so daring as to come next and risk the halter? It were difficult to say; the whole mass was in motion on that bleak and barren old common, trap plain. The assembled townsmen volunteered almost to a man. The long roll of Tom Loveland and the examples of Hastings were electric and contagious.

We have no captain to lead us to avenge the blood of our slaughtered brethren. Who shall it be? Benjamin Hastings said one; Benjamin Hastings said every one, and he was chosen as it were by acclamation. Captain Wells said, "Serjeant Hastings, you will have your neck stretched for this." What his reply was is not known, but his words were probably as fearless as his actions.—It was by such a spirit as actuated this individual that the most glorious revolution recorded by history, was accomplished.

Hastings* had observed among the people collected,

* Mr. Hastings was originally from Hatfield, removed to Wapping in Deerfield, and thence to this town. He lived for a time nearly opposite Miss C. Willard's house —at the old fort. Aaron Denio kept a tavern at the former place. Hastings happened in one day, and Denio said to several persons sitting there, here you are a par-

Capt. Timothy Childs, who resided near the falls, and had been an officer in the company of militia. With that modesty which generally accompanies true merit, he observed to the people that Childs was older and had had much more experience than himself, and declined taking the command in favor of Childs, which was agreed to, and himself became second in command; he had previously been a sergeant. Aaron Denio was chosen Ensign. Day-break of the ensuing morning found them on their march to Cambridge. Another company was afterwards formed, of which Agrippa Wells was Captain. This was made up from the south company, the other was called the east company. Stouter hearts never buckled on a knapsack or a broad sword, or handled a musket, or fought at Thermopylæ. No braver men fought at Bunker Hill, at Bennington or Yorktown, or any other town where fighting was to be done for their home and barren wilderness. It might then be said—

> If nothing else, "these barren fields afford,
> Man and steel, the soldier and his sword."

How could hireling Hessians expect to conquer such a people, contending for home, liberty, wives, children and friends. They had mothers who set up through the night to fry nutcakes for the wants of their husbands and sons on their march, and to run bullets to be used to destroy their enemies; who practised firing at marks, and watched the forts in the Indian wars, with a gun on one side and a spinning wheel on the other, while their men folks were putting the sickle in the harvest. They were not too genteel to be useful, nor their sons ashamed to shoulder a knapsack of home cakes. They were not of the "do'nt meddle with that gun Billy" stock.

The officers who declined going to Cambridge were

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cel of lazy drones, lounging about my bar room doing nothing, but here is Hastings who never puts on his leggins and comes into the street without earning a dollar.

among the first in respectability and esteem in the town. No one thought of passing Capt. Wells without uncovering his head in token of respect. But he and others thought it madness to attempt, in the then feeble state, impoverished means and small population of the colonies, to resist the soldiers of the mother country. They did not however lose the respect and confidence of their townsmen.

Capt. Agrippa Wells, familiarly called Capt Grip, had seen service in the old French war, in a company called the Massachusetts Rangers; he was taken captive and carried to Canada, where the Indians compelled him to run the gauntlet, (a favorite sport among the boys here, thirty years ago.) What he most complained of as being particularly mortifying in this foot race was, the being stripped and compelled to wear the *chemise* of an old squaw. Pah! This was a little too much for the blood of as brave and fearless a hero, and as genuine a Yankee as ever trod the soil of New England. He was so nimble and active that he got through the gauntlet with little injury. An old squaw at the end of the line gave a more severe blow than any of the rest, which he, with his characteristic spirit, returned by giving her a sturdy kick. The Indians seemed to regard this as a laudable mark of spirit, for they applauded and took him into favor.

He was sent to France from whence he got to England and thence home. He was enlisted in the Rangers by Capt. Porter, a recruiting officer who was here. Porter accidentally broke his sword in coming out of Aaron Denio's tavern. He commanded a company at the taking of Burgoyne. Hastings was there also.—He had been out occasionally through the season and had returned home sick; but a requisition came for one half the militia to repair to Bennington, Burgoyne having imprudently moved so far inland as to render his situation favorable for an effort on the part of the Yankee

troops to surround him. Hastings and Childs went out again.

Capt. Wells returned from Cambridge on a furlough. He resided at the corner in the old tavern house where now stands the store of Hall & Co. Immediately after his return, Rev. Mr. Newton, whose predilections were rather bearing to the cause of the King, or supposed to be so, but at this period, as at all others, so great was his prudence and reserve, that his political views were not the occasion of any breach or trouble between him and his people, walked over to Capt. Wells' to inquire about the war. He found the family at tea. It is not to be supposed that at this time, so soon after the tea was thrown overboard, and it was almost an act of treason to drink it, that the patriotism of Capt. W. would allow him to partake of the beverage, but the presumption is, that it was procured for some female of the family on account of some medicinal property it was supposed to contain. Be this as it may, Mr. Newton inquired of Capt. Wells what they intended to do with the tories. "What do with them," said the Capt. bringing down his clenched hand upon the tea table with a force and energy which made Mr. N. start, and disturbed the equanimity, almost the equilibrium of the family board, and made teacups and other table furniture ring out a disturbed and discordant peal. "Do with 'em, d——n 'em, we intend to hang the d——ls."

About this time, Mr. Newton made an exchange with Rev. Mr. Ashley of Deerfield, with whom he was intimate. Mr. A. favored the British cause, and it was thought by many that he had an undue influence over the mind of Mr. Newton, in relation to public affairs, and

NOTE.—About this period, Capt W. was at the house of a neighbor in the west part of the town, and on being invited to drink a cup of tea, said, "No, I would sooner drink my children's hearts blood."

that he was willing Mr. A. should take this opportunity to treat upon the subject by way of caution to the people. However, Mr. A. descanted more fully and freely on the subject and in a way and manner not at all suited to their ideas.*

As was usual, in the intermission season, most of the people remained at the house. The choice spirits and friends of the Revolution were soon together, and as usual the people collected around them. We can see in imagination the expression of their countenances, their animated gestures, and hear the hurried, determined language of this group. Among them we can see Capts. Childs and Wells, Capt. Isaac Newton, the Arms's, Smead's, Nims's, Allen's, Graves's, and many others.—Benjamin Hastings was there, and Samuel Hinsdale, David Smead, Esq. and Daniel Nash. These last were immediately chosen a committee to take measures in relation to Mr. Ashley's afternoon preaching. They proceeded to fasten up the meeting house.

Samuel Hinsdale had lived in Deerfield a near neighbor to Mr. Ashley and had a personal dislike to him.—As the time for the afternoon service approached he placed himself at the entrance of the door, and the rest of the committee near him. As Mr. Ashley proceeded to open the door, Hinsdale gave him a jog or jostle with his elbow, not exactly gentle and courteous, not precisely rude, like a violent push or shove, which would have thrown a man down or tumbled him on to or over the bystanders, but evidently not the result of accident, or a mere joggle, but what is termed a hunch. On its being repeated the second or third time, Mr. A. interrogated him as to his reasons for such rude treatment, saying, "you should not rebuke an elder," &c. Hinsdale re-

* Hutchinson, the Royal Governor, had sent out commissions of the Peace, &c. liberally among the people, for the purpose of increasing the friends of the King.—Mr. Ashley had married a relative of Gov. Hutchinson.

plied, "an elder, an elder, if you had not said you was an elder, I should have thought you was a poison sumach." There was no preaching that afternoon.

The spirit of the people was roused and their feelings excited to intensity by the aggressions of the British; their love of liberty, and right, and independence knew neither slumber nor sleep; it was not a lambent but a vivid and vehement flame. Recent events had set their hearts on fire.

Soon after this, Mr. A. preached a sermon in his own pulpit, at Deerfield, in which he spoke of the doom of those Americans who had fallen at Lexington, as being fearful in the next world, and also spoke against the patriot cause. One member of the congregation, a Mr. D. not satisfied with the discourse, during the week following, held a private consultation with a Mr. S. afterwards Col. S. of Conway, and on the Sabbath ensuing, Mr. Ashley, on attempting to enter his pulpit, found it spiked up. After several unsuccessful efforts to enter, he turned to Deacon A., a blacksmith, and requested him to go and get his hammer and undo the fastening. The deacon, with a very proper gravity, replied that he did not use his hammer on the Sabbath. An axe was eventually procured and the door opened. Mr. D. was in his seat seasonably to see the whole, and for thirty years kept his secret, as did also Col. S.

During the continuance of the war, the towns were often called upon to furnish blankets, clothing, provisions, and soldiers. Repeated votes are found for raising money for the hiring men for the service and for the other purposes mentioned, and for purchasing powder and lead for the use of the town. Votes were passed for many succeeding years for purchasing beef for the army.

1776. Committees of correspondence, safety and inspection were chosen in all the towns. This town agreed "to adopt the measures and instructions to our

representatives as it is set forth in the newspapers to Boston representatives of May 20. Also that the present House of R. with the Council jointly acting be directed to proceed to form a Constitution, to be published &c before ratification."

An act was passed against monopoly and oppression, by which the Selectmen of towns, and committees of correspondence, were authorised to fix and establish prices for the regulation of the sale of articles of common use. The other New England States adopted the same measure. It seems from all the accounts we have of that period, that, besides contending with a powerful foe, the people had worse enemies to contend with among themselves. Speculators, actuated by the infernal spirit of avarice, (which withers and dries up every good feeling of the soul, under whose influence, men though living are dead to all but themselves,) oppressed and preyed upon the people, and lived upon their miseries in this day of trouble.

The town added four to their committee of safety, among whom we find the names of the late Ebenezer Arms, and Capt. Isaac Newton. These committees were constantly on the alert. The price of every article of living had advanced, and the measures taken to regulate prices, &c. were in a measure defeated by the depreciation of the currency.

NOTE.—The following are the prices of some articles fixed in Nov. 1776. Labor in summer, 3s per day; Wheat 6s 8d; Rye 4s 6d; Corn 3s; Peas 7s; Beans 6s; Spanish Potatoes 1s 6d; Oats 1s 9d; Winter Apples 1s; Salt Pork 7d; Beef, grass fed, 3d; Stall 4d; Cheese 6d; Butter 9d; Flour £1 3s; Milk 2d qt.; Cider at press 4s; Mutton and Veal 3 1-2d; Dinners at taverns, of boiled meat or equivalent, 8d; Suppers or breakfasts of tea, coffee or chocolate 8d; Lodgings, (soldiers sleeping on the floor not to be considered such.) 4d; Flip or toddy made with N. E. Rum, 9d a mug; Cotton and Linen,

In 1777 the town voted to comply with the act against monopoly and oppression, and chose five men to prosecute breaches thereof. At this time they were required to furnish shirts, stockings and other clothing for the army in the proportion of one set to every seven males over sixteen years of age. Men for the army were hired by the town, some for six and some for nine months.

The following anecdote will furnish us with some idea of the almost unlimited power exercised by these committees of safety. A smoke had been occasionally seen rising from the thick woods on the east side of Fall river, perhaps opposite Russell's factory, or nearly so, and near where the road now runs. Accordingly the committee was notified, (Nash, Childs, Hastings, and A. Denio) who forthwith proceeded to the spot, and on making diligent search found a man by the name of Harrington, in a sort of cave or protected and sheltered place, and all the tools necessary for counterfeiting.—They took him directly to Northampton. Judge Hawley told them that the man could not be imprisoned in the jail, as it was then full of tories and could hold no more. He directed them to take him back to the pine woods, a distance of a mile or so, this side of the village, and administer as many lashes as they thought best and let him go. They accordingly repaired to the spot, and executed the sentence as directed. Hastings and the others, except Nash, gave light blows. Nash put on heavily, broke skin and brought blood at every stroke.—They then bathed his wounds with spirits which they brought for the purpose, and gave him some to drink.

homespun, yard wide, best common sort, 3s 6d; Tow Cloth, good quality, yard wide, 2s 3d; Shoes, mens' neats foot leather, best, 7s 6d; Breeches, best deers leather, £2 2s. Beaver hats, best, £2 2s; Felts 7s; Making full suit clothes, full trimmed, £1 4s; Boards, best white pine, at mill, £2 8s per M; Hay, English, best qual. 5s cwt.

They made him promise never to be seen in this part of the country again and let him go. He thanked them heartily for their lenity and kindness, and departed. He was not again heard of. An ancient specimen of modern Lynch Law.

In Sept. 1777, the committees of safety west of Connecticut river, received circulars from Gen. Gates, from his camp at Behmus' heights, informing them that Gen. Burgoyne had caused Skeensboro', (now Plattsburg) Forts Ann, George, and Edward, and the posts he had occupied south of Lake George, to be evacuated, and "the artillery stores and provisions to be brought to his army at *Nary Neight's* mills, seven miles north of his camp, except some heavy cannon which are carried to five mile island in L. George—from all, it is evident the General's design is, to risque all upon one rash stroke." The committees were called upon by this letter to send reinforcements without one moments delay.

Immediately upon this call the militia assembled from all parts of New England, to stop the progress of Burgoyne. A large proportion of the population of this town started immediately for the seat of war, leaving their families as they were, not turning back to take the farewell kiss or to bury their dead. Whole fields of grain, then ready for the sickle, were left unharvested, to rot. Here, in this then wild and almost secluded region shone forth that unconquerable love of liberty, and the rights of man; that determined spirit of opposition to oppression, which distinguished the pilgrim fathers.—The result was, the surrender of Burgoyne with ten thousand troops.

To show more fully the troubles of these times, the preamble to an act passed in Connecticut is inserted here:—"Whereas the rapid and exorbitant rise upon the necessaries and conveniences of life in this day of public calamity and distress, is chiefly occasioned by monopolizers, the great Pest of Society, who prefer their

own private gain to the interest and safety of their country, and which, if not prevented, threatens the Ruin and Destruction of the State, and the Committees from the several states of New England have recommended that the prices of the necessaries of life be limited as hereinafter affixed, &c."*

In 1778, the town voted to approve the confederation of the United States, and took into consideration a form of government for the State, sent out to the people.—Seventy three members of the town present. Five only approved of it and sixty-eight disapproved. £100 was raised for ammunition.

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* By this tariff the price of wheat was fixed at 6s; Rye 3s 6d; Corn 3s; Wool 2s; Pork 5 to 7 score, 3 pence 1 farthing, 7 to 10 3 1-2 pence, above ten 2d 3 farthings.—Grass fed beef, best quality not to exceed 24s; Good Flax 10d; Well tanned Leather 1s 5d; Mens' good yarn Stockings not to exceed 6s; Potatoes, commonly called Spanish, of the best sort, not to exceed, in the fall, 1s 4d, and at any other season, not over 2s; Good Coffee not to exceed 1s 4d; Tallow 7 1-2; Good, yard wide, striped Flannels, 3s 6d; Rum not to exceed 6s 8d wholesale, 7s 8d retail, allowing one penny a gallon for every ten miles transportation by land; N. E, 3s 10d pr gal. pr hhd. 4s pr bbl; best Muscovado Sugar 54s per 100. at the port of delivery, allowing 9d per mile for every ten miles, &c. &c. and

Whereas, considering that Goods in general, imported have of late, (owing to the unbounded avarice of some persons) been sold by wholesale at the exorbitant advance of 500 or 600 per cent. from the prime cost, and retailed out at the unreasonable profit of 40 and 50 per cent. or more in addition thereto, &c. &c. The act prohibits the importer from taking at higher rate than the proportion of £275 sterling for what cost £100 in Europe, for Woolen, coarse Linens, &c.—other goods $250 for £100—and limits the retailer to 20 per cent. advance, forfeiting for any article sold at or under 20s a penalty of 20s; over that sum, forfeiture of the whole.

In regard to the law for regulating prices, the following are stated for facts in the Journals of the day :—

"The prosecuting officers have been called upon in vain to prosecute breaches of the law for regulating prices. The spirit of it is violated every day by those who withhold what they have to sell; and the Letter of it by those who sell what they have, and evasions of it are innumerable. Many who were very ready to assist in making the law, have been as ready to break it, and conspired with others to bring their own authority into derision. Horses are undoubtedly the internal produce of the State, yet they are sold, 3, 4 and 500 per cent. higher than in 1774. What farmer will exert himself to raise beef when his LEAN HORSE will sell for more than his FAT CATTLE? Leasing cattle for 999 years, selling an ordinary cow by guess at 1000 wt. pawning eight dollars for a gallon of rum, &c. are among the common evasions of this law.

How will the middling and poorer sort of farmers pay their share of the expenses of this war, when they must give at the rate of two bushells of wheat for every ONE that was purchased in '77; while those who have amassed great sums of money rejoice at having a double value stamped upon it, and anticipate the day when their neighbors farms must be exchanged for their own cash, to pay the public debt. (This breed of men is not extinct in 1838.) It was said this law was designed to satisfy the army, but its effect is the reverse. They deem it robbing them of a great part of their pay which ought to be made good in FULL. Our currency has long been growing more plenty and less valuable, and a law will as soon

NOTE.—The following prices stated in Aug. 1779, show, on comparison with those of Nov. 1776, the depreciation of the currency in the interval. Corn, bu. £3 12s; Rye £5 2s; Wheat £8 2s; Oats £1 16s; Cider £4; Hay, cwt. £1 10s; Labor £2 14s; Womens' labor, week, £2; Beef, lb. 5s 6d; Mutton and Veal 3s 6d; But-

convince people that it is as scarce, as that it is as precious as it was in '74. Let us be content to raise the credit of our bills by the same degrees that it sunk, and not ruin public faith by setting it to work miracles. Let us make good our contracts with the army; establish an equal mode of taxation; call for the money where it may be found, &c."

In 1780, the town voted that the committee who hired the nine months men, act discretionally about paying them. A committee was chosen to hire men for six months, and in compliance with the resolve of May 4, to pay for the clothing and blankets when called for. In July they voted to give the men that serve in the Continental army, twenty shillings a month in addition to their wages, and one thousand dollars in paper money, for six months.

What the population of the town then was, and their quota of men at the time when called for, I have not been able to ascertain. It had become extremely difficult to procure men to serve; the means of the country had become exhausted; there was a scarcity of money, men, and every thing else but a determination to be free.

The amount of money raised by taxation was so great as to be extremely burthensome to the people; to which, add the grievances by the wicked acts of those bloodsuckers, the monopolizers and speculators, (who were found every where, and so utterly unprincipled and depraved, as to be preying upon the poverty of the people, and the pittance of the soldier fighting the battles of his country,) and the depreciation of the currency, which rendered the nominal amount of taxation excessive.

ter 11s; Cheese 5s 6d; Wool £1 4s; Mens' shoes 6*l*; Stockings 3*l* 12s; Shirts, Tow cloth, 4*l* 16s. In June, '79, farmers produce had advanced in the ratio of 36 1-2 to 1; W. I. Goods as 41—1—9 to 1. Labor as 15 to 1 of the price in March, same year.

The true value of appropriations, &c. may be estimated by reference to the subjoined table; the figures indicate the number of dollars in continental currency, equivalent to 100 in gold and silver. To April, 1780, the value was fixed as stated below, by the act of Mass.

	1777	1778	1779	1780
January,	105	325	742	2934
February,	107	350	868	3322
March,	109	375	1000	3736
April,	112	400	1104	4000
May,	115	400	1215	3430
June,	120	400	1342	6650
July,	125	425	1477	6900
August,	150	450	1630	7000
September,	175	475	1800	7100
October,	275	500	2030	7200
November,	300	545	2308	7250
December,	310	634	2595	7400

In 1781, one dollar of specie was equal to $1,87 in new emission bills, from Feb. 27, to May 1; 2,25 to May 25; 3,00 to June 15; 4,00 to Oct. 1. Below these dates the depreciation approached to total worthlessness.

In October of this year, £155 in new emission bills, was raised to purchase beef for the army, to comply with a resolve of the General Court of Sept. 25. In Dec. "Voted to the three months' men who served under Capt. I. Newton, fifty shillings each, as a bounty for their hire, in the new emission money of the State."

A brief sketch of the character of Capt. Newton and his Revolutionary services may be found under the title, Biographical Sketches.

The winter of 1780 has become memorable, and by

Note.—The whole expenses of the Revolutionary war, to the States, were in paper money, $359,547,027, estimated in specie at $135,193,703.

old people often referred to as the " hard winter." The 19th May, of the same year, is memorable in the annals of N. England, as the " dark day," and is an epoch in its history. The darkness commenced before noon and continued through the day, and until midnight, was greater than usual. It seemed to come with clouds from the south, and extended from Maine to N. Jersey. In many places, common print could not be read ; the time of day perceived by clocks or watches, or house work be done without candles ; the birds and fowls retired to roost, and the cocks were crowing as at day break, and every thing assumed the gloom of night.

In January, 1781, the sum of three hundred pounds was raised to buy beef for the army, and a committee chosen to hire men. Those who owed the town or had collected money, bore the depreciation of the currency, by a vote of the town.

JUSTICE.—In the month of May, the town passed a vote to "have a Justice of the Peace," and David Smead was appointed. An Esquire was then a much more important personage than at this day, and the title, as well as all of a military kind, of themselves, conferred distinction, and were a warrant of merit, and a sure recommendation of character, a certificate undoubted. This appointment at that day is of itself alone, an evidence to us, that he was a man of intelligence, talents and worth. He was much resorted to for council and advice in all cases of difficulty between neighbors, as also for information on public affairs, as was after him, his son, the late Hon. Solomon Smead.

In the intermission on Sundays at the old north meeting house, on Trap plain, most of the people tarried, and a collection might always be seen, of which he was the centre, or focal point about which all gathered, for the people looked up to him with a respect amounting to reverence, and as to an oracle, for information on all

subjects. His tall and venerable figure is still remembered by some of the living, by one, at least.

His three sons, the late Hon. Solomon Smead, David Smead, frequently called Master David, from his having been one of the earliest school teachers in town, and Maj. Julia Smead, after their father's decease, occupied together, in common, and in harmony, the same fine meadow farm, (being at one period, perhaps the best real estate in town,) until within a few years previous to the decease of the first named, a sample of the patriarchal age. Another son, Benjamin, recently a member of the N. Y. Legislature, learned the art of printing of Thomas Dickman, Esq. and established a paper at Brattleboro', called the Federal Galaxy, about the year 1799.

July 9. Money was raised this year to pay for horses sent into the service the last year, and the town refused to purchase their "quota of beef demanded by the court."

July 26. The vote was reconsidered, and the assessors directed to act discretionally in making a rate sufficient for it.

They also voted to raise eight militia men to go to West Point for three months, and to give ten silver dollars a month as a hire to each man for his services; the town to receive the wages. The late Capt. Isaac Newton commanded a company at West Point at this time.

GILL SET OFF.—In December of this year, a vote was passed to set off the people the east side of Fall river as a town, to come to the centre of the river. Moses Bascom, Timothy Childs, and others, whose names have been mentioned heretofore, resided in that part of the town, and were prominent men in their day. Gill was not incorporated until 1795.

WARNING OUT.—One circumstance in the history of the early settlements, distinguishes their times in a particular manner from our own. Frequent entries are

made on the records of the names of persons who had come to reside in town, with the time when and the place from whence they came. In many instances, individuals were notified to leave town, where they had only been for a few days, without having given an intimation of remaining. They were warned by the Constable, who had a warrant from the Selectmen, in which it was stated that they had not received the consent of the town to become residents, &c. Mr. Worthington, in his History of Dedham, says the reason for this proceeding is obvious. They might become expensive, and a greater objection, they might occupy the places wanted for their own sons, who might thereby be obliged to emigrate—possibly they might feel that the descendants of such puny a stock as they could boast of, would be in danger of pollution by the free introduction of strangers. It is probable, however, that it was to prevent their becoming chargeable, or gaining a residence, and in conformity to a law then existing. Mr. W. says—The first settlers required a strict scrutiny to be made into every man's character who was proposed for admission, &c. A committee waited upon them to inquire their motives for being in town, and if answered that it was for the purpose of settlement, they asked them some such questions as these:—Who are you sir? Where from? What worldly substance have you? Do you approve our Church government? Can you assure us you will not become chargeable to us? &c. The church would be still more strict in its inquiries as to the religious feelings, doctrines, &c. of members proposed.—The old law authorised towns to warn out persons who had not acquired a legal settlement, and grew, perhaps, out of this jealousy of strangers. Mr. W. very ingeniously traces to this source, that peculiar trait in New England character, impertinent curiosity, so generally noticed by our own countrymen and foreigners, and that it grew out of the attempt to establish a pure church

and a pure Commonwealth, and that this impudence was necessary in those days, dictated by policy, &c.—Doubted.

In 1636, the Court of the Colony of Plymouth enacted that "noe person or persons, hereafter, shall be admitted to live and inhabite within the Government, without the leave and likeing of the Governour or two of the assistants at least."

PERIOD FROM 1782 TO 1786.—The war of the Revolution closed in '82. The increase of population in the State the last eight years had been only ten thousand; if peace had prevailed during that period it would have been perhaps ten times as great.*

The subject of the sequestered land in Deerfield was again brought before the town, and they voted "to make a trial for a certain parcel of land the town of Deerfield have taken, in manner as followeth:—that David Smead, Esq. is chosen to act discretionally for the town to bring on a trial before the General Court, and make report to the town of his proceedings, and likewise to keep an account of his expenses in said business and lay them before the town for allowance."

A singular vote is found on the records of the year '83. "Voted that three fourths of a cord is a middling load of wood, agreeable to the agreement of the town with Rev. Mr. Newton." This was rather small business—not even middling—and gladly would I have been spared placing it here, but as an author, from whom I have freely quoted, says in relation to the Shay's insurrection, "History, the mirror of the past, reflects with painful fidelity, the dark as well as the bright objects

* In a continental tax made this year, 207 persons were taxed, (including Gill)—17 non residents; sum required, £459 16s 8d on the polls; 2s 9d 3 farthings on each £—highest tax, Capt. Eben. Wells £55 12s real; £9 9s personal. He lived where Esq. E. Root now does..

from departed years." It is more noticeable, as Mr. Newton, sometime previous, relinquished ten dollars of his salary and gave twenty for the use of the poor.

DIVISION OF THE COUNTY.—The subject of a division of the County of Hampshire, was agitated in 1784, and this town voted to join with the neighboring towns in petitioning for it.

As a dispute had existed for some years between the town and Mr. Newton, about the quantity of wood he should have, it was settled in '86, by a vote allowing him forty-four cords annually, of good merchantable wood, chestnut, pine, hemlock, to be excepted, "provided he will except it."

For a long period after the war, as the military spirit did not pass away with the occasion which had roused it to action, the annual reviews or musters of the troops in the country, one of which was generally held here or in the immediate vicinity, drew together great numbers, from all the surrounding country, and the border towns in Vermont. On these days there was, and still is, a great deal going forward. The female sex formerly did not hesitate to attend these displays in liberal numbers. To be a soldier then was a distinction by no means sought to be avoided, as now. The Revolutionary soldiers and officers usually attended the training and review days, and encouraged the young aspirants for military honor, and at all times excited their ambition with oft told stories of the recent war, of hair breadth 'scapes, and how the fields were won.

NOTE.—Hampshire and Berkshire voted together for Mem. Cong. as late as to 1789. The population of the State in '86 was 356,582,—black, 4,371. Boston contained 2100 houses—14,600 inhabitants.

CHAPTER V.

From the close of the war to 1789.—*Insurrection under Daniel Shays*

"And every one that was in distress, and every one that was in debt, and every one that was discontented, gathered themselves unto him, (David at the cave of Adullam) and he became Captain over them."—THE OLD TESTAMENT.

We have seen that the number of those who doubted the safety and expediency of the effort of the colonies to free themselves from the British yoke, was very small, and that the people of this town generally imbibed that spirit of resistance to the oppressive acts of that government which so generally prevailed; and though few in number, and poor, did their duty, and contributed all in their power for the advancement of the good and glorious cause of independence.

Some body must work. The hard work of the Revolution was most of it done by hired soldiers, and the hard work of the present day is much of it done by what are called hirelings. The soldiers of the Revolution had little to gain by the change in a pecuniary view. They were as staunch friends of liberty as their richer neighbors. While the poor are looked upon by the rich and prosperous as a degraded class, fit only to do the drudgery, as a burthen to society, a necessary evil, too often oppressed and dispised; it is by such that the battles are fought by sea and land, and the hard work is done. Nothing actually degrades men but ignorance and vice.

There was no superfluity of money or any other personal property in the country when the war commenced It found the people poor at first, and kept and left them

so; not only so, but a great public debt pressing upon the government, and private debts upon individuals, like the fabled night-mare upon her sleeping victim. To use the language of another, "After eight years of war, Massachusetts stood with the splendor of triumph in Republican poverty, bankrupt in resources, with no revenue but of an expiring currency, and no metal in her treasury more precious than the continental copper, bearing the devices of union and freedom."

Foreign goods, superfluities and luxuries had become plenty and cheap, and the people, did then, as they do now, buy too many on credit. In 1784, more than two thousand actions had been entered in the County of Worcester, then containing a population of 50,000 only, and in '85, seventeen hundred were entered. The number in Hampshire County was as large or larger. The full view of a Sheriff when you are suspicious he may have a precept against you is rather startling—not to say horrible; a genuine dun is sufficiently uncomfortable, and when oft repeated, is exceedingly ungraciously received by the receiver, especially if couched in the unfeeling, importunate, impudent language and manner, and half devouring air of some men, it becomes still more loathsome and disgusting than even the walls of a dungeon. There is no redeeming quality in a dun, and he who is often exposed to it, (and few are not) although he grows callous and apathetic by the repetition, may well exclaim with the humble Cowper,

> "O for a lodge in some vast wilderness,
> Some boundless contiguity of shade.
> There is no flesh in man's obdurate heart,
> It does not feel for man."

Thanks to the benevolent spirit of our age, that monstrous power, too often exercised in malice and revenge, and a greater than any individual has in any other case (the power of imprisoning an innocent man for debt) of taking away his liberty, is in effect, passed away.

To return from our digression—Immense numbers of suits had been commenced; executions hung over the people; "the debtor waked to thoughts of gyve and jail;" lands and goods were seized and sold at great sacrifice and ruin, irremediable ruin stared all, or nearly all, full in front. The burthen of taxation was enormous.

A convention was held in this town in 1781, by committees from seven towns in this county, "to take into consideration some of the difficulties attending public affairs, particularly the taking off the tender from the new emission money, as it was proposed by Congress, and remedy the depreciation of the old currency, and defined as a fixed and permanent medium of trade, &c. also to consider the complaints respecting the wages and clothing of the army." A committee of a convention held at Hatfield in 1782, reported a list of grievances, upon which the convention was nearly equally divided. One was also held at Deerfield in 1783, to consider upon the manner in which taxes were collected and property sold therefor. They issued a circular calling upon people to assemble and assist in releasing from jail an individual confined for assisting in stopping an auction sale of property taken for taxes.

Artful men, to answer their own wicked purposes, fanned the flame of rebellion, and desperation and madness seized the minds of the people with unyielding and remorseless gripe.

"He that saw
His patrimonial timber cast its leaf,
Sells the last scantling and transfers the price
To some shrewd sharper ere it buds again.
Estates are landscapes gazed upon awhile,
Then advertised and auctioneered away.
Improvement, too, the idol of the age,
Is fed with many a victim."

It is scarcely surprising, says a writer, that a suffering

and deluded people should have attempted relief, without considering that the misery they endured was the necessary result of the confusion of years of warfare." They rebelled because they were not made of wood and stone, but had feelings, appetites and passions; but they did not consider that neither the law nor the constitution were to blame. They did not duly appreciate the causes which had produced the existing state of things, and their natural and necessary results. The government could not extinguish the claims of creditors, nor consistently delay the collection of taxes.

1786. Gov. Bowdoin asked of the Legislature to make provision for the public debt of one and a half million, in order to maintain the credit of the State; it must be raised or some arrangement made with the creditors. The Legislature doubted the ability of the people as well as their disposition, and hesitated, while old taxes remained uncollected. A law of '81, authorised the treasurer to issue warrants for a tax sufficient to pay principal and interest for any year, even though no tax act passed. One million, at least, was then wanted.—The proper debt of the State was then five millions. The Legislature, however, directed the Treasurer to suspend warrants for the sums required to pay holders of public securities, for which the taxes had been pledged, and which were then due. The Representatives were censured—their excuse was, the burdens of their constituents, and the impossibility of paying.

They voted a tax on polls and estates, to comply with the requisitions made by Congress. At the same session, a motion made to issue paper and make it a tender, was negatived by five sixths of the House.

The people held conventions and passed rash and threatening resolves; threatening the Legislature and denouncing the courts as engines of oppression. They complained—

1st. Of the amount of taxes, and that so large assessments should be made at such short intervals.

2d. That such large sums were allowed to the Congress.

3d. That so much was paid to the soldiers, who they said might wait.

4. The fees of lawyers and the costs of Courts.

5. They objected to the Senate as a needless and expensive branch.

6. The high salaries of some public officers, and referred to the services of Masschusetts in the war, which should excuse her from paying so largely.

Many other causes of grievance were alleged and insisted upon. These things had been spoken of, and the complaints of the people became more and more loud until '86, when the storm which had been so long gathering, like a black cloud, big with the waters of Heaven, burst, and sent forth its accumulated contents, not of water, reader, but of noise and wind. Like the winds imprisoned by Æolus, fabled king of storms and tempests, who had hid them in caverns, and laid mountains upon them, to restrain their headlong fury, for a long time roaring within their limits, impatient of confinement, when at the call of the angry goddess Juno, he, with his inverted spear, smote the mountain side and gave them vent, they all rushed out, with fury, now uncontrolled, and formed into companies, (agmine facto) passed over the sea in giddy whirls, disjointing and dispersing the Trojan fleet far and wide over the waste of waters.

They threatened and talked largely, and boasted of what they would do. Doubtless there were many among them who dreamed of office; who, if they did not shout like exulting Adonijah, "I will be king," yet had an eye to filling their pockets in the general confusion, and if they had done so, would have done no more than many a heartless and shaving speculator does in our own days, for so greedy are some among us, as to disregard the voice of natural feeling and the rights of oth-

ers, and act as though the idea of responsibility and accountability were blotted from the creed of the human race. On every side is heard the voice of complaint of overreaching, wrong, injustice and oppression.

"Man's inhumanity to man,
Makes countless thousands mourn."

Large numbers of people assembled in the counties of Berkshire, Hampshire and Worcester, to prevent the sitting of the courts. In the instructions of the town of Dedham to their representatives, speaking of the practice of lawyers, they say,—"If they cannot be effectually regulated, we then desire the order of lawyers to be totally abolished, and if a project be brought forward to relieve us from our present difficulties by means of a paper currency, treat it with the most decided abhorrence. Encourage manufactures and do what you can to prevent the introduction of foreign luxuries." Pretty good doctrines these, and well worthy attention at this day; the reverse only serve to make the trader a lordling at the expense of the consumer.

The prejudice against lawyers in early times was much greater than at present, and it seems certain, that one of this profession who buys notes, for the purpose of commencing suits, as was formerly the practice, brings groundless actions, or for small and unworthy cause, and in every case where opportunity presents, without regard to any other principle than getting money, is capable of, and does more mischief than any other description or class of men, and worthy only of public indignation and contempt.

No reason is perceived why an honorable and humane lawyer may not be as useful a man in his sphere as any other citizen, nor why some of this profession should put on airs of superior consequence. The arrogance and assuming of some of this professional class of men, are entitled only to ridicule. They, however, are not alone.

These ideas may be too old fashioned for the *genteel* reader, and the notions he may entertain of the dignity which should pertain to the professions and to trade, and for the distinctions he fancies should exist in society.—But the day has dawned, and now is, when the few rotten remnants of aristocratic feeling existing among us, and those who endeavor to encourage and sustain them, are alike fading away. May the repose of that feeling be eternal.

To superior talent, intelligence and worth, combined with true benevolence of character, unassuming, free from ostentation, we cheerfully bow and accord their due. To the preposterous claims made for distinction by any profession, by wealth, by a brighter button or a better coat, unattended with superior worth, even accompanied by gentility, falsely so called, the common sense of mankind will put a veto.

While the elements of confusion were at work among the people, and in the midst of these troubles, appeared one Daniel Shays, a man of considerable bravery, and some experience, having been an officer in the late war. He was active and ambitious, plausible in his manners, but very deficient in education, as his official letters prove, "which bid defiance alike to government, grammar and good spelling." He was in the battle of Bunker Hill, at the taking of Burgoyne, and had served under Lafayette. Whether, like Absolom and Adonijah, he thought within himself that he would be King, or like Robespierre and Cromwell, to found a military commonwealth, does not appear. Be this as it may, like the good King David, soon after he began his march with a small number of followers—

"Every one that was in distress and every one that was in debt, and every one that was discontented, gathered themselves unto him and he became captain over them."

A considerable body of insurgents, estimated at near

fifteen hundred, all armed, had assembled at Northampton and took possession of the Court House, and prevented the sitting of the Courts. Similar proceedings took place in other Counties. A proclamation issued by the Governor had little effect. The legislature passed laws to relieve the people; an act for easing their burthens, for collecting back taxes in specific articles; for making real and personal estate a tender in discharge of executions, &c. and for making processes less expensive, and tendering pardon to the insurgents. These were ascribed to weakness or timidity, and did not produce the desired effect. Shays, with a few hundred followers, appeared at Springfield and took possession of the court house; a petition was presented to the Court requiring them not to proceed with business, and both parties retired for that time.

From this place they sent circulars to some of the towns, as appears by the following, found among the papers of the town of Colerain.

"To the inhabitants of the Town of Cold Reign Gen We would inform you that we have about 2000 now at arms, on the ground, and that we are not sufficient to obtain our redress of Grievances of the Supreme Court would therefore Invite you to March Imediately to Head Quarters Now in Springfield with Arms Amunition and provisions to the Relief for the Salvation of our Country Depends upon our Exertions at Arms for the Lord will Deliver his people if he will that they should do it"

JOHN POWERS, Chairman of Committee.
TEST THOS. AMSDEN, Clerk.

Springfield, Sept. 27, 1786.

The excitement in this part of the country was very great, and the mobbers, as they were commonly called, were joined by many individuals from Colerain, Leyden, and other towns in this vicinity, with a few, and but a few, from this town. The people here, were, as a mass, on the side of the government. Shay's men were dis-

tinguished by wearing green boughs in their hats as a badge of party.

The militia in Hampshire and Berkshire were ordered out in considerable numbers. When the government found that it was necessary to be serious and put an end to the mischievous frolics of Shays and others, between 4 and 5000 troops were raised and put under the command of Gen. Lincoln; twelve hundred were from Hampshire County alone. The mob assembled in the winter at Springfield, where Gen. Shepard had been ordered to post himself to protect the U. S. Arsenal. The number under Shepard at this time was about fifteen hundred. Shays and his party were disposed to take the arsenal under their own care and keeping, and this they meant to do before Shepard arrived with his army.—Shays had about eleven hundred men who had marched with him from Pelham. He was joined by Eli Parsons, from Berkshire, by a party of four hundred, who had assembled in West Springfield, and posted themselves at the north parish in Springfield.

Sleighs loaded with "mobbers" in considerable numbers, passed through this town to the scene of action where all were concentrating, and many citizens of this town were in the action, on the side of the government. A deep snow was on the ground, with a thick crust.—The following version of the almost mock battle, is from Holmes' A. Annals which I transcribe, not supposing I can improve it by putting it in different language.

"About four o'clock in the afternoon of the 25th, (January) Shepard perceived Shays advancing on the Boston road, towards the Arsenal, with his troops in open column. He sent one of his aids with two other

NOTE.—At this time one Luke Day had about 400 men at W. Springfield, and Shays expected his co-operation, but Day found good reason for assigning another day for the attack upon the arsenal than Shays had fixed, and did not stir in the matter.

gentlemen, several times, to know the intention of the enemy, and to warn them of their danger. Their answer purported that they would have the barracks, and they immediately marched forward to within 250 yards of the arsenal. A message was again sent to inform them that the militia were posted there by order of the Governor and of Congress, and that if they approached nearer they would be fire don.

"That," said one of the leaders, "is all we want," and they advanced a hundred yards farther. Shepard now gave orders to fire, but he ordered the two first shots to be directed over their heads. This discharge, quickening instead of retarding their approach, the artillery was levelled against the centre of their column. A cry of murder instantly arose from the rear of the insurgents and their whole body was thrown into total confusion. Shays attempted to display his column, but in vain. His troops retreated precipitately—mostly in the direction of Ludlow, about ten miles, leaving three of their men dead and one wounded on the field."

The way of transgressors is hard. They scattered here and there over the snows; the crust was not sufficiently hard to bear them up, but hindered their flight and sorely mangled their shins. It is perhaps singular that all those killed and the one wounded, who died the next day belonged to this part of the country. Two of them, Ezekiel Root and Ariel Webster, were from this town; Jabez Spicer from Leyden, and John Hunter from Shelburn. These men rose on account of the taxation, doubtless believing they were engaged in the cause of freedom. An individual from this town by the name of Chaloner, engaged on the government side, one of whose daughters is still here,* had both arms shot off while swabbing a cannon. He afterwards followed the business of school teaching till his death.

* Mrs. Newell, the wife of Mr. David Newell.

When Chaloner was disabled by losing his arms, the swab was also blown away and destroyed. Nothing daunted by this dreadful disaster, Deacon Harroun of Colerain, immediately took his place and thrust his mittens into the cannon the length of his arm and thus supplied the place of the lost swab, exclaiming at the same time, "never mind it boys, they hav n't killed us all yet."

Capt. Agrippa Wells of this town of whom we have had occasion to make honorable mention as a staunch whig and patriot in the war of the Revolution, had command of a company from this section, under Shays.—When the mobbers fled from before the government men at Springfield, he stood almost alone, while his company as well as the others, had taken to flight, waving his sword and calling upon the retreating soldiers to halt, in a voice which was heard all around and far away over the snows, reproaching them with their cowardice and pusillanimity. The simple fact that such a patriot as he unquestionably was, who had fought for the King and then for the freedom of his native land, willing at all times to pour out his blood like water for the defence of the right, should engage in this affair, conclusively shows that the hardships of the people were beyond endurance, and that he considered the measures of government oppressive, and willingly engaged in what he considered a second war of independence, and to fight his country's battles o'er again.

The main body of the mobbers took post at Pelham; Gen. Lincoln at Hadley. From Pelham they addressed a petition to the General Court, and afterwards removed to Petersham, which, Lincoln learning; he by one of the most indefatigable marches ever performed in America, leaving Hadley at eight o'clock, evening, reached N. Salem at 2 o'clock next morning. The weather was extremely severe; a storm of snow was falling and fast filling the roads, and the route was hilly. The wind was blowing a gale from the north, and the country so

thinly settled as to afford small chance of protection from the cold or occasional shelter by the way. Under all these discouragements, they advanced thirty miles with scarcely a halt. At nine in the morning their front was at Petersham. "Had an army dropped from the clouds, the consternation could not have been greater," so unexpected was their coming. Before this exhausted and half frozen body of men, the insurgents fled with the utmost confusion and trepidation like a flock of sheep.

One hundred and fifty were taken prisoners—of the rest, some retired to their homes, others to different States. The leaders ultimately took refuge in Vermont. In the affair at Springfield was a company of about seventy from this town, under Capt. Moses Arms, with whom also were some from neighboring towns. These were on the side of government. There was about the same number of Shays' men under Capt. Foot, from what is now Gill. Arms' company was composed of volunteers and spoken of as one of the finest on the hill. Maj. Nash of Shelburn, and Tubal Nash of this town, were officers under him. Another party started from here afterwards to reinforce them, among whom was the late Ezekiel Bascom, Lemuel Hastings and Solomon Smead. They stopped at Hadley at night, and were taken by a party of Shays' men, under Foote, and plundered of all their provisions. To this party, probably belonged a gentleman recently deceased, who, with his brother and others, set off from a town in this vicinity, after setting up all night to make nutcakes and prepare for the occasion. Their horses and other property, together with their cakes, were taken from them. Capt. Foote was afterwards sued for these aggressions and compelled to refund.

Previous to the action at Springfield, Capt. Buffington of Worthington, who had known Shays in the Revolutionary war, rode forward to meet him, and remonstrated with him upon the folly of his undertaking, but to no

purpose. They were both Captains in the Revolution. The late Col. Eliel Gilbert, and others from this town, were under Buffington in the Cavalry, and accompanied him in his tour about the county to quell the mobbers. Col. G. afterwards served with the four months' men in Berkshire. Shays rode at Springfield, a beautiful white horse belonging to a Mr. Allen of this town, who was of his party.

A very considerable part of the population of Colerain belonged to the Shays party. Upon hearing of the death of the three men at Springfield, a great excitement was caused, and a large number was soon collected. Deacon Harroun, before mentioned, and others on the side of the government, who had gone out with him from there, did not consider it safe to return home, so great was the tumult, and they stopped for some days in this town.

Commissioners were soon appointed, of whom Gen. Lincoln was one, whose duty it was to offer pardon to the insurgents on certain conditions.*

Gen. Lincoln came into this town with about five hundred men, among whom were Buffington and other officers. Buffington quartered his men in the village for a time; and Lincoln at Reuben Wells' inn, where Mr. Goodman now lives, in the north meadows, where the rebels were summoned to appear and take the oaths of allegiance. The most part in this section complied with the terms. Among those who demurred about attending when called upon by the soldiers who were sent around, was the late Mr. Sylvanus Nash, and Mr. Thomas Billings, both worthy men. Mr. B. lived at Music Hill, just beyond Nash's Mills. One of these, after going part way with the soldiers, altered his mind and escaped from them; the other engaged to wait up-

* Seven hundred and ninety took the benefit of the offered grace.

on the commissioners, also altered his mind, concluding not to do as he said he would.

A fine black mare, belonging either to Buffington or one of his men, became so lame while here as to be useless, and the white horse belonging to Mr. A. which Shays had rode at Springfield, was pressed into the service, willing or unwilling, and went through the campaign over all this part of the country, to bring in the mobbers to take the oaths.

In Bernardston, a man by the name of Jason Parmenter, was hotly pursued by a party of the soldiers for the purpose of arrest. He turned upon his pursuers, shot at and killed one of them, whose name was Walker. Parmenter was arrested, tried and convicted for this offence. He went to the gallows with a rope about his neck; a pardon was then read to him and he was so entirely overcome as to faint away. The insurrection had then subsided.

Eli Parsons issued a circular to the people of Berkshire, dated Feb. 13, 1787, by which it would seem that he possessed the characteristics of Robespierre, or was such an one as Sallust describes Catiline to have been two thousand years ago.

"BERKSHIRE, Feb. 13, 1787.

Friends and Fellow Sufferers of the County of Berkshire—Will you now tamely suffer your arms to be taken from you, your estates to be confiscated and even swear to support a constitution and form of Government and likewise a code of Laws which common sense and your consciences declare to be iniquitous and cruel, and can you bear to see and hear the yeomanry of this commonwealth being hacked and cut to pieces by the cruel and merciless tools of tyrannical Power and not Resent it even unto Relentless blood shed—Would to God I had the Tongue of a ready Writer that I might Impress on your minds the Idea of the Obligation, you as citizens

of a Republican Government are under to Support those rights and Privileges that the God of Nature hath entituled you to! Let me now persuade you by all the ties of friendship, which natural Affection Inspires the human Heart, Immediately to turn out and Assist your Right—the first step I would Recommend is to destroy Shepard's Army, then Proceed to the County of Berkshire as we are now collecting, at New Lincoln at York State and Pownal in Vermont State, with a Determination to Carry Our Point if Fire, Blood and Carnage will Effect it. Therefore we Beg that Every Friend will Imediately Proceed to the County of Berkshire and Help us to Burgoyne Lincoln and his army—I beg this may Immediately be circulated Through your County. I am Gent. in Behalf of myself and Other Officers your Humble servant. ELI PARSONS."

Parsons afterwards resided at Bennington, Vt. retired, and in a miserable hut in the woods—very destitute. From there he emigrated to a town a few miles beyond Utica, where he became possessed of a valuable farm. He is represented to have been of fine, dignified personal appearance.

Shays was a native of Hopkinton in this State, born in 1747. He sold a sword presented to him in 1780, by Lafayette, and received assistance in the way of alms, in the streets of Worcester, which he had once entered with a powerful army. From Vermont he removed to Sparta, N. Y. where he received a pension from the U. S. for Revolutionary services. The application was made while Mr. Calhoun was in office, who wrote to the government of this State to know whether any legal objection existed to the grant of a pension.—Declarations filed by himself (Shays) in the war office, show that he and his aged wife were very poor. The schedule, filed in 1820, was as follows:—one Mare $25—one old Saddle $2,50—Bridle 50c.—Old Cutter $5—

Old Axe 62 1-2c.—Hoe 62 1-2—Table $3—3 Chains $1,12 1-2—One old Scythe and Snathe, $1, 121-2—One old Pail 12 1-2c—One large Bible—$1,00. He died Sept. 1825, aged 78.

CHAPTER VI.

Annals of the town.—Great sickness of 1802.—*Difficulties respecting the location of Meeting House, &c.—Division of the town petitioned for.—Ministry.*

For a succession of years after the insurrection, we find little in the annals of the town requiring particular notice. The population increased gradually but slowly. After the year 1780, and previous to 1790, several enterprising individuals had established themselves in the south part of the town in trade and in various branches of mechanical business, and owing to the central situation of that part of the town in relation to the surrounding country, it began to flourish and considerable business to be done. These subjects will be noticed in another place.

The laying out of the road called Federal Street, from Smead's inn, north, was an exciting subject in the year 1788, and was very violently opposed by the town. The travel then went from the head of the village under rocky mountain. As late as 1790, petitions for a lottery for building a bridge over Deerfield river, were made by this town and others, and an effort in '95 for a free bridge there, and remonstrances of the towns in this vicinity against the petition of John Williams for a toll bridge.

The small pox prevailed in '92, and a vote is found allowing a hospital for inoculation, to be built, and in '96,

a house was licensed for the purpose. The house now occupied by Mr. David R. Wait, the Hoyt place, was, among others, improved for the purpose. In this year also a petition was forwarded to the General Court for an act to incorporate a company, Daniel Wells, Eliel Gilbert and Abner Smead for the purpose of bringing good and wholesome water into the "town street" by pipes.

1802. In the year Eighteen hundred and two, there occurred in the village, a most mortal and desolating sickness, carrying dismay and death in its progress, and terror to the hearts of all.

"When I remember all
The friends so link'd together,
I've seen around me fall,
Like leaves in wintry weather;
I feel like one, who treads alone
Some banquet hall deserted,
Whose lights are fled, whose garland's dead,
And all, but me, departed!
Thus in the stilly night,
Ere slumber's chain has bound me,
Sad mem'ry brings the light
Of other days around me."

Truly, then the hearts of men failed them for fear of that desolating judgment which seemed to threaten all, the old and the young and the middle aged. The strong man bowed before his sway; his strength in which he confided, and of which, perhaps, he made his boast, became suddenly like that of a little child; like the unweaned infant; it vanished before the mighty power of that Sampson of diseases, the dysentery, which came down upon the peaceful village like a wolf on the fold.

"The Angel of Death spread his wings on the blast."

Those who were attacked by the disease, which seem-

ed, to mock at, to defy the power of medicine, soon became so weak and exhausted as to be careless of life, and almost reckless as to the issue of their sickness. In all who breathe the air, both man and brute, even down to the minutest insect that sports in the sunbeam, the love of life is strong and powerful, even to intensity. This love predominates over every other love. The fear of death is the greatest of all fears. Otherwise, the unhappy, the miserable, the oppressed, the persecuted, the victims of misrepresentation, of power and malice, who constitute a large portion of the human race, would become their own destroyers oftener than they now do, seeking a relief in death from their sorrows, and earth become one great charnel house of the dead. To the future must be deferred an understanding of this riddle of life, this constant warfare of existence.

The stores and shops were mostly shut up, the streets were deserted, and an appalling solitude brooded over them; none came to transact business unless in cases of necessity, for there were scarce enough well to take care of the sick, and other thoughts and cares than those of business occupied the minds of men. The traveller sought out other avenues or roads to pursue his journey, carefully avoiding to pass through the village, for alarming reports spread far and wide, that a contageous disorder, either the plague or the yellow fever, or something worse and more horrible, prevailed here, sweeping off the inhabitants with the besom of destruction. Many who did pass through the village, tied handkerchiefs over their faces and took other precautions to avoid the contagion. Many families removed from the village, and of those who remained, many sent away their children, as the disorder was mortal among the young.—One hundred and one persons went away to other places in consequence of the sickness, and at one period there was not an inhabited house in the place where there was not one or more sick or dead. Five coffins

were made on one Sabbath-day alone. The first death occurred July 18, and the sickness soon spread into other parts of the town. Some families lost five, some three, and some lost all their children.—Then was there heard the voice of weeping and lamentation, Rachel mourning for her children, refusing to be comforted because they were not.

The whole number which had died, according to a record kept by the late Rev. Dr. Newton, from July 18 to Sept. 20, was 47,—whole number in the year, of all disorders, 68,—57 of whom were of the dysentery, and nearly all of them young persons.

Eminent physicians did what they could to stay the plague. That excellent physician and estimable man, Dr. John Stone, the late Dr. Williams of Deerfield, and that nobleman of nature, the late Dr. Henry Wells of Montague, were employed; the last and the first named, mostly. The sick seemed to have the impression generally, although they had great and well founded confidence in Dr. S., that they should certainly recover if Dr. Wells attended upon them, so great was their reverence for that philanthropist. The writer of this, then in his twelfth year, remembers, as though it were of yesterday, the gentle manners, the mild and benevolent countenance of the good and venerable man, in his plain suit of brown, cut in the Quaker style.

According to a statement made by him and Dr. Stone, in the Gazette of August 16, upwards of ninety had been affected with the disorder up to the 14th, and there were then about 30 sick. They attributed the sickness to a scarcity of fruit, so necessary in hot weather to correct the bile, and to a putrid atmosphere occasioned by a great flood in June, which left stagnant water on the low lands, which by the intense heat of the weather became putrid, and being blown hither by the southerly winds affected the air so sensibly, as that its insalubrity might be plainly perceived by any one walking abroad

in the evening. At this time—the 16th—the wind was blowing N. W. the heat was mitigated, considerable rain having fallen, most of the sick were convalescent. In 1777, a great sickness prevailed here as also in Shelburne; the population was much less in both than at present. Fifty died here and eighty in Shelburne.

Stop, mortal, pause and consider! what is human life? What is thine own life? It is even as a vapor which appeareth for a little time and then vanisheth away. A bubble on the stream of time. That vapor, the sun, as soon as he shall have arisen, and before he has attained his meridian splendor, shall exhale; that bubble shall soon burst and be lost in the waste of waters. The eager pursuit of men after wealth, hurrying to and fro; their fraud, avarice, over-reaching and dishonesty, are matter of special wonder. Look at them, and—they are gone. The places that knew them, know them no more forever. The Ocean of Eternity is before you, interminable, vast, boundless, shoreless. Where is your chart, your compass, your helm, your anchor?

"Soon time to thee shall be no more,
No more the sun thy eye shall view,
Earth o'er thy limbs her dust shall strew;
And life's fantastic dream be o'er."

Fix your eyes upon the Eternal City, your heart on Him who is the head-stone of the corner, who is without shadow of change, and since

"Jesus has lain there, dread not the tomb."

Political Parties.—At this period, the excitement of feeling between the two great political parties into which the country was divided, was, perhaps, as great as at any other in its history. They were first called Federalists and Anti-Federalists. The division arose at first, from a difference of opinion in regard to the Constitution. The Federalists claim that they were in favor of it, as it is. The Federalists are understood to have

favored the views of Alexander Hamilton, an eminent statesman, who was supposed to incline to a more consolidated government, giving more power to the Executive and to Congress, while the Democrats favored the more purely democratic views of Mr. Jefferson. The leading Federalists were also charged with favoring monarchy and the British Government. The unpopularity of some of the measures of Mr. Adams, tended to fill the democratic ranks. Some of the best and purest men in the country, of both parties, suffered abuse from the violence of party rancor.

The party divisions of the present day, although producing licentious abuse in the press, do not so much as the former, encroach upon and interrupt the kindly intercourse of society and the relations of social life.

The following brief table will show how the parties stood here during a portion of the times alluded to:—

Years.	Fed.	Dem.	Years.	Fed.	Dem.
1801	115	5	1806	98	69
1803	87	41	1809	128	76
1804	87	56			

The votes continued nearly in the proportions of the latter year, until during the Presidency of Mr. Munroe, party spirit subsided.

In 1808, a memorial of great length was forwarded to Congress asking a suspension or repeal of the Embargo Law. It was in strong and glowing language, evidencing a high degree of excitement and alarm at the existing state of the country, as though every thing was tending to a state worse than the worst despotism; the elements of society rushing to anarchy and chaos, and the bonds which had hitherto held the people together for mutual aid and protection, were about to be broken up and dissolved. This and others may be found on the Second Book of Records of the town.

New County.—The County was divided in 1811,

and this town was finally fixed upon as the shire town, although a majority of the towns were in favor of Cheapside.

MINISTERIAL.—In 1813, the town, by a unanimous vote, concurred with the church in inviting Rev. Gamaliel S. Olds, to settle as colleague pastor with Mr. Newton, with a salary of $700. Mr. N. relinquished $100 of his salary. See under title Ecclesiastical.

1816. MEETING HOUSE.—A committee which had been chosen the previous year, from the different school districts, to fix upon a place for building a new meeting house, reported in February, that they were unable to agree by a majority, upon any place. Upon a motion made to repair the old one, the town was equally divided. A vote was then passed to choose a committee from without the County to fix upon a place. Ezra Starkweather, Ebenezer Mattoon, Samuel Porter, all of Hampshire County, were chosen.

The committee met and having taken a view of the town, made a report dated in May, fixing upon "some part of one acre of ground" next north of the house of Elijah, Alvord, Esq. as the place where the new meeting house ought to be erected. A subscription was made by several individuals, amounting to $3,150, whereby the subscribers thereto agreed that if the town will accept the report, to pay that sum for the support of the ministry.

At a meeting held June 12, a motion was made to accept the report on condition that the signers of the subscription shall secure the payment of the sum subscribed, which was negatived, 82 to 46. A motion to build a new meeting house was also negatived.

At a meeting held in October, a vote was obtained declaring the proper place on which to erect a new meeting house, to be between the house of Samuel Newton and Robert Nash, (now of D. Long, senior) in Silver street, a large minority dissenting.

That part of the society residing in the village, commenced forming a new society or Poll pariah, and petitioned for an act of incorporation in June; signed by Samuel Wells and 50 others, which was granted.

Under these circumstances a meeting was held to see if the people would "concur with Mr. Olds, in submitting to a council, whether it is expedient, under all existing circumstances to dissolve his pastoral relation to the church and people." They concurred in this and a council was called for the purpose, of this council, held Oct. 30, Rev. John Emerson of Conway, was the moderator, and Rev. J. W. Canning of Gill, Scribe.

The council say:—"On inquiring it appears that this question of expediency arose from an appointment received by Mr. O. to an important professorship in Middlebury College, Vt. on the one hand, and the peculiar state of the church and society in G. on the other, and that it appears from the records of the town book and other documents, that fruitless attempts have been made by the society* to unite either in repairing the present meeting house where it now stands, or in assigning some other place for erecting a new one; that a portion of the society have already obtained an order of notice from the Legislature for erecting themselves into a poll parish and the remaining portion have in view to petition to be incorporated into a separate town, and have actually obtained the consent of the town therefor," &c. &c. The result was a vote that the connection between the pastor and the society be dissolved. This took place accordingly.

Division.—The same month in which the council was held, and a little previous, a town meeting was held to see if the town would consent to approbate the setting

* The society comprehended the whole town, or nearly so, excepting the Episcopal Parish, then but recently formed.

off of all the north, and west, and east parts of the town, as far south as certain lands owned by people residing in the village and lying directly north of it, so that a line drawn from the south line of the town near Russell & Co's. cutlery works, by the road as it runs through the village to the south line of the new town, would, in places, not have been a mile long. The territory included every inhabitant in the town, not living in the village.—This would have been a real Gerrymander—a stately corporation—a smart little town.

The town voted that they give their consent that the territory mentioned, together with its inhabitants, be set off and incorporated by the name of Green Meadow.

A petition was sent to the Legislature signed by Moses Arms and over one hundred others for an act of incorporation, which failed of being granted.

The summer of this year is distinguished in the annals of New England, as the COLD SUMMER. There was a frost every month;—few fields of corn ripened;—this was the golden age of small bills, *shin plasters*, so called, some of which were as small as one sixteenth of a dollar. All the small change had been picked up on a miserably small speculation, which an honorable man would despise. He would as soon be caught cheating at playing pin, as in this small trade.

The winter of 1819, was very remarkable. Lands were ploughed in January; flies and grasshoppers were seen abroad; and every thing had the appearance of spring.

The summer of 1820, is memorable as being remarkably dry. In May, from the 11th, it rained for twenty successive days, with scarce the intermission of a day. June, July and August were remarkably dry months, and a great drowth prevailed through the country. The grasshoppers became a burthen, devouring the fruits of the earth, eating even the standing corn. In several of the hill towns, it became necessary to feed cattle with hay to preserve them alive.

CHAPTER VII.

Ecclesiastical History.

"In the first settlement of New England, when the people judged their number competent to maintain a minister, they then surely seated themselves, and not before; it being as unnatural for a right New England man to live without an able ministry, as for a smith to work his iron without fire."—JOHNSON.

For the little that is to be known of the early days of the church in this town, we are indebted to tradition and scanty gleanings from the town records. Previous to the incorporation of the town, in one instance, perhaps in more, a small sum had been voted by the parent town, to the Green river people, as they were called, which they had liberty to apply to the "support of preaching or for a school." What the number of inhabitants was, at the time of the passing this vote, we have no means of ascertaining, known to us, yet it must have been small, since, in 1763, ten years after incorporation, the town, including Gill, contained but three hundred and sixty-eight. But, as appears by the records, they immediately set themselves in good earnest about the work of settling a minister.

In two months after their incorporation, and at their second meeting, Aug. 7, 1753, the following vote was passed:—

"Voted that the 16th day of this instant be set apart and kept by us as a day of prayer and fasting and yt the Rev. Jonathan Ashley of Deerfield, Joseph Ashley of Sunderland, Mr. Abercrombie of Pelham, be invited to assist us in the work of the day, and give their advice for some meet person to settle in the work of the ministry among us."

Benjamin Hastings, Edward Allen, and Timothy Childs, " were chosen a committee to invite and desire the ministers to come and assist us."

At another meeting, Aug. 20, a new committee was chosen to take the advice or approbation of the above mentioned clergymen, together with Mr. Jona Edwards of Stockbridge, Hopkins of Sheffield, Williams of Long Meadow, with respect to the *Quallifications or fitness* of Rev. Mr. Edward Billings, for the work of the ministry in Greenfield."

Mr. B. had been previously settled in Belchertown. The cause of his dismissal is not now known. He is supposed to have been a native of Sunderland and a graduate of Harvard College. His settlement took place immediately after the last mentioned vote. The town voted him a settlement of £600, old tenor, with a salary of £300, for the first year, to increase £25 each year, until it should amount to £400, and also his fire wood. He resided at a place called Stocking fort, where Mr. Abner Wells now lives. This house was picketted for defence, and soldiers were stationed there in the time of the Indian wars. He died within a few years after his settlement. His brief answer to the call given him to settle here, follows :—

" To the inhabitants of Greenfield :—I have taken into consideration your call of me to settle as minister of the Gospel among you, and thereupon determine to accept of it, though there be some circumstances attending my settlement among you that are far from being pleasing. I wish you may be directed by God in managing the important affair of settling the gospel ministry, and that I may be interested in your prayers, that when I come to you, I may come in the fulness of the blessing of the Gospel. Your friend and servant,

EDWARD BILLING.

November 5th, 1753."

Benjamin Hastings was the first, and for many years, the only deacon.

The settlement of Mr. Billings was attended with some difficulties. A difference of opinion existed among the clergy about terms of communion. There were two classes or schools in divinity, existing at that day, one of which was known as the Edwards school, to which Mr. B. belonged. Mr. Ashley of Deerfield, was of the opposite school, consequently opposed to his ordination.—Mr. B. took care that clergymen of his own school, among whom was Mr. Hall of Sutton, were called to set in the council. Mr. Ashley was of the council and took with him half a dozen delegates, in order to outvote the Edwards men. The council, however, insisted on voting by churches, and not *per capita*, (heads) and Mr. B. was ordained.

Mr. B. was dismissed from his pastoral charge at Cold Spring, (Belchertown) in April, 1752. He afterwards preached for a time at a place called Nine Partners, in New York. He is said to have been a worthy man and of good talents. Nothing more appears upon the records in relation to him, excepting in 1759, the appointment of a committee to "look into ye affair of Mr. Billings' settlement."

NOTE.—Old tenor has been mentioned. At a period near the year 1690, an emission of paper was made in this State to defray the expenses of the expedition against Quebec. As the bills were not redeemed except by new emissions, their value fell rapidly 'till the depreciation eventually was as 7 1-2 to 1, in specie. This is old tenor. In 1750, the sum of £180,000 sterling paid to the colony to defray certain military expenses was devoted to redeeming these bills. They had fallen so low at this time that the 180,000 redeemed 1,980,000—eleven for one. The same precious system of flooding the country with bills, is now in vogue,—HIST. BERNARDSTON.

Mr. Billing was in adversity. Men of sordid and grovelling minds, infer from it a want of merit and of every virtue. Under such circumstances men essay to pluck us, even as a pigeon is plucked by a hungry hawk. Thankful may we all be, that we are not to be judged of man's judgment. The poor should remember, that although they suffer many privations, the rich have a counter balancing weight of cares.

Adversity, thy tooth is keen. Sunshine friends desert men under its influence; the frost nips them like butterflies, and they are worthless. "Disguise thyself as thou wilt, poverty, still thou art a bitter draught, and though thousands in all ages have been made to drink of thee, thou art none the less bitter on that account." Our happiness however is more in our own power than many

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The following bill will furnish an explanation of the subject:—

Boston, July 23d, 1768.

The Province of Massachusetts to Thomas Williston Dr.
For sundries bought for use of the gentlemen Selectmen, in going down to Rainsford Island.

	l	*s*	*d*
Rump of Beef and pieces to roast,	5	0	0
Two Tongues,	1	10	0
Cucumbers, Mustard, Salt and Meal,	1	4	0
Bread and Biscuit,	2	15	0
Lemons, hundred and a half,	15	0	0
Two bottles of Claret and Cider,	4	15	0
Pipes and Tobacco,	1	0	0
Butter, Pork and Fat,	2	10	0
Onions and Pepper,	0	11	0
Sweet Marjoram and Twine,	0	4	0
Cheese and Cayenne,	1	18	0
Spirit,	3	0	0
For Roasting the Beef, and Charcoal,	1	5	0
Old Tenor,	*l*39	12	0
Lawful Money,	*l*5	5	7

believe; the state of the mind is the criterion of happiness or the reverse, and there is scarce any condition in life from which comfort and a degree of happiness may not be derived, if we exercise the reason which our Maker has given us. 'Tis not to the possessor of millions that happiness is ensured—that depends upon the constitution of the mind. Reader, pause, ponder these things, and be not such a fool as to be miserable because others would have, or think you so—in short, let the trials and troubles of life make you a philosopher. Sufficient for

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Boston, February 1, 1769. We the subscribers hereby certify, that the above Account is right cast, and the charge according to agreement, the whole amounting to five pounds five shillings and seven pence.

JOSHUA HENSHAW,
JOSEPH JACKSON,
JOHN RUDDOCK,
JOHN HANCOCK,
HENDERSON INCHES,
} Selectmen of Boston.

The Hon. House of Representatives to Mr. Cord Cordis Dr.

	l	*s*	*d*
To 111 Bottles Madeira Wine, 34s,	188	14	0
To 18 Bottles Lisbon Wine, 22s 6d,	20	5	0
To 70 Bowls Punch,	70	0	0
To Bread, Cheese,	20	0	0
To Breakage,	7	10	0
Old Tenor,	*l*306	9	0
Punch and Wine,	9	0	0
	*l*315	9	0
Is Lawful Money,	*l*42	1	2

Boston, 5th June, 1769. Errors excepted.
CORD CORDIS.

the day is the evil, without your making it worse by repining and complaint.

The greatest of poets has said—

"Sweet are the uses of adversity,
Which like the toad, ugly and venomous,
Hath yet a precious jewel in its head."

This jewel is the eye. He who will condescend to stoop and examine the eye of the toad, will find it of surpassing beauty, yet is the animal otherwise ugly and loathsome to the last degree.

"Vain, very vain, our weary search to find,
That bliss which only centers in the mind."

Domestic afflictions assailed Mr. B. and shortened his pilgrimage. The rich in this world's goods do not escape from cares. If they come not early, they come late; their visitations are as sure and certain as death, who, *equo pede pulsat*, and with equal certainty knocks at the cottage of the peasant and the turrets of Kings.

"If misfortune comes to breakfast with you she generally comes to dine and sup."

Adversity has no charms to lure men to her embrace; she is shunned as a destroying pestilence; her breath parches and dries up the fountains of life like the Siroc-co of the desert; her touch is withering and all around her abode is desolation and death; none willingly come to the entering in of her doors, all shun her haunted, hated shades, as they would a gathering storm.

But the breath of prosperity comes like the spicy gales of India or "Araby the blest;" an endless summer smiles upon her coasts; all men rise up and call her blessed; her voice is like the voice of spring—the voice of the charmer, haply it may not prove like the songs of the Syrens, to the followers of Ulysses.

It is no great affair that a man should discharge his duties, and fulfil all his obligations, while the gale of prosperity fills his sails, and every gale wafts him steadi-

ly and swiftly to the wished for haven of prosperity and ease. Touch him with the rod of adversity, (not that rod which converts every thing it touches into gold,) let the winds veer and shift, and blow a hurricane,

"Amazement confronts him with images dire,
Wild winds and mad waves drive his vessel a wreck;"

and if his nerves are made of steel, and his heart of sheet iron, or as hard as the neither mill stone, he may feel and do as other men do.

Perhaps, reader, you are one of those who congratulate themselves upon their own superior good fortune, judgment and success in life, and look with contempt upon their less successful neighbors for their want of capacity. Who maketh us to differ? Mayhap you are one of those who are hard, miserly and unconscionable in their dealings; oppressive and grinding, taking every advantage of the simple and unwary; disregarding the cry of the poor, the fatherless and the widow; grappling estates by wrong, and exacting like the Jew, the pound of flesh, from the living and quivering limb. Begone to repentance and prayer! for a day of retribution shall as surely come, as time shall be lost in eternity, and a just, but merciful Judge, rules over all, and be assured that neither an affected zeal for religion, nor the building of temples can shield from the keen tooth of remorse and the eye of the Eternal.

The precise time of the death of Mr. Billing is not known, but it occurred within a few years after his settlement. He was buried in the Old Burial Ground, but no stone marks the spot.

"Mine be the breezy hill that skirts the down,
Where a green grassy turf is all I crave,
With here and there a violet bestrown,
And many an evening sun shine sweetly on my grave."

From the brow of the hill at this burial ground,

just in rear of Col. Root's, is to be found one of the most pleasant and picturesque prospects in this part of the country, and worthy the pencil of an artist. The eye here takes in a view of the sloping mountains of Shelburn, Deerfield and Sunderland, and the romantic rocky ridge bordering the village on the east; the rich meadows below and on the river; parts of those at Deerfield; the scattered houses in the hamlet of Charleston, with its stone jail, princely jail house and neat grounds; the old mill; to the left the buildings of the High School, and the lofty spire of the house of prayer; down the valley the cutlery works of Russell & Co. (success to their enterprise); the windings of Green river and the evergreen hill beyond, and minor objects.

"And forest and meadow and slope of hill,
Around thee are lonely and lovely and still.
Oh loveliest there the spring days come,
With blossoms and birds and wild bees hum,
The flowers of summer are fairest there,
And freshest the breath of summer air."

Around in their chambers of decay, repose the remains of some of the first settlers, the bones of the fathers, those hardy and stern men, in their last, long sleep; not to be raised till the last trump:

"Each in his narrow cell forever laid,
The rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep,"

and the infant, in the smiles of his innocent beauty, cut off.

The ground has been inclosed but a few years, previously lying in common with the lands around it. It contains, perhaps, one third of an acre, and comparatively few monuments. Few or none are found of an earlier date than 1756. Some are of a dark red color; others of a peculiar grey stone, slate, and a few marble. Few bodies have been deposited there since 1803, when, as I think, several were taken up to be placed in the

new yard. Having a brother and sister removed at the time, I was present at the disinterment, and the coffins were opened, as a lesson for the living. Such it was; and of those who witnessed it, probably not one has since desired to look upon its like, for the impression made by looking on these remnants of humanity, in their various stages of decay, will last during life, to one at least. But "to this complexion all must come at last." A few years since, a beautiful grove of stately oaks covered the southern declivity of the hill adjoining this ground. Their appearance, to those coming from the south, was very beautiful, and their location very appropriate. What more fitting place than this could have been chosen for the long repose and resting place of the dead, in that shady covert which once surrounded its hallowed ground. It is still a very beautiful spot, although much which rendered it peculiarly inviting, is lost by the removal of the old oaks. By frequent visits to these homes of the dead, the impression they are naturally calculated to make is in some degree lessened, yet the heart is made better, and the vanity of human hopes and human life is strikingly illustrated. Go, ye proud and supercilious and haughty sons of vanity and look upon your home.

In imagination we are carried back to the times of these hardy pilgrims who settled around this spot, and realize their privations and toils, on a new and almost barren soil, and their continual exposure to the incursions of the natives.

"Oft did the harvest to their sickle yield,
Their furrow oft the stubborn glebe hath broke,
How bowed the woods beneath their sturdy stroke."

Reader, have you become weary of the toils, anxieties and disappointments of life; of poverty, privation and dependence; is life a burthen to your wearied spirit; are you a shipwrecked wanderer, misfortune's mark;

are the corroding cares of life too much for your fortitude, daily wasting the well spring of life and hope; have you been "left to cold neglect and penury and scorn," to the oppression of enemies who have trodden you to the earth; have you fallen a victim to appease the ill feelings of a few who sought to destroy an honest reputation; be patient; in a few days such clods as these shall cover you; here is a quiet resting place. See to it that the miseries of the present, extend not to a future life; there is enough here.

"The dead reign here alone, all that breathe
Will share thy destiny; The gay will laugh
When thou art gone, the brood of care plod on,
All shall leave their mirth, and their employments,
And make their bed with thee. Thou shalt lie down
With patriarchs of the infant world—with kings.
Earth that nourished thee shall claim thy growth,
To be resolved to earth, to mix forever with the elements.
As the long train of ages glide away, the sons of men,
Shall one by one be gathered to thy side,
By those who in their turn shall follow them."

A call to settle was given to Mr. Bulkley Olcott in Dec. 1760, with a salary of £66. 13. 4. for the first year, to rise £1. 6. 8. a year till it amounted to £80, and a committee appointed to get subscriptions for a settlement. Nothing further appears upon the records concerning him, and as he was not settled here, the inference is that the call was not accepted.

In August, 1761, the town voted unanimously to give "Mr. Roger Newton a call to settle in the work of the ministry, and to give him as an encouragement to settle among us, £133. 6. 8. as settlement, and £66. 3. 4. as sallary, and to rise £1. 6. 8. a year till it amounts to £80." At a subsequent meeting in Sept. it was voted to give him sixty cords of wood yearly, in addition to his salary. Compared to the amount paid at this day, the salary appears very small, and for an individual, the

quantity of wood very large. The wants of life, in the then plain style of living were small, as the real wants now are. Houses were not so carefully sealed up and guarded against cold as now, and stoves were not in use. Frugal habits distinguished the people of the olden times.

There were differences of opinion existing in the church respecting terms of communion, of the precise nature and extent of which we are not informed. Something may be inferred respecting them from the following, which is his answer to the call:—

"GENTLEMEN—I take this opportunity to acknowledge your favors in manifesting such an esteem of my labors among you that you have so unanimously invited me to settle with you in the work of the ministry and have according to your ability been liberal in your offers to me. Your affections manifested to me from time to time, inclines me to settle amongst you, hoping I may be serviceable to your spiritual welfare, relying on your abiding in your good opinion of me, and esteem of my labors so long as I am faithful in the work of the ministry, and depending upon your catholic sentiments with regard to them who differ from you about terms of communion—that there be no contention; provided no scandalously ignorant or immoral persons are admitted to your communion, that all persons of competent knowledge and sober lives be allowed to come to ye communion who think it their duty to come to the ordinances of the Lord's table, and it is upon this proposal I accept your invitation and desire to give myself to the service of your souls in the work of the ministry, humbly depending upon the grace and strength of Christ, that I may be faithful, requesting an interest in your prayers that I may save myself and them that hear me."

He was settled Nov. 18, 1761. He was a native of Durham, Conn. His religious character was far from that of the bigot, partizan or zealot. He possessed

great mildness and equanimity of temper and manners; always dignified, and appeared among his people like a kind father among his children. The single circumstance that the town enjoyed peace and union for nearly the whole period of his ministry, FIFTY-SIX years, is of itself, strong evidence of his virtue and prudence. Fifty-six years! Start not reader, at the almost incredible difference between that day and ours. What a text for commentary! Since he fell asleep, things have not remained the same, inasmuch as there is a wide difference between a town, itself forming one parish only, and the same town cut up into five. It has been suggested by some, that if he had preached the distinguishing doctrines of either of the opposite sects to the extent which either might claim that he ought to do, the people would not have been so long united; that what was gained for peace was lost to doctrine and to duty. It is not the province of the writer to say what he should have done, or to speculate upon what might have been the results of any particular course, but simply to narrate facts so far as "they come to his knowledge." His sermons were chiefly practical.

He was visited with severe domestic affliction in the loss of a son of great promise, who died in 1789, at the age of 27. He was then a Tutor in Yale College.—The following is a part of the inscription upon his grave stone:—

"Having eminently distinguished himself in the course of a short life, for his filial obedience, love of science, virtue and mankind." Another son followed many years after in 1815, who was a man of talents and original mind. Madame Newton was removed from the cares of earth in 1805, and was what a clergyman's wife, and what every other woman should be, a good woman, dignified and benevolent.

He died Dec. 1816, aged 80. A sermon was preached at his funeral by his friend Dr. Lyman of Hat-

field, from Heb. vii. 23. He was gathered to the grave, to use the beautiful passage of scripture so often used by him in his prayers, "like a shock of corn fully ripe." His moderation of manner, conciseness and perspicuity of style; the sound sense of his sermons and their particular brevity in cold weather, (meeting houses had no stoves in those days) as well as the dignified and venerable form of the good man are still fresh in the memory of many. Consummate prudence, caution and shrewdness, were distinguishing traits in his character. His prayers in public worship had much of sameness and formality, yet no one found fault therewith; they were seldom varied except on particular occasions, yet was he always pertinent, and on many occasions remarkably so. In his latter days he very frequently read, for the choir to sing, the Pslam of Watts, commencing,

"Now to the Lord, a noble song,"

the reading of which always affected him to tears. Doubtless he had his failings; whatever they might have been, and reader, whatever may be our wanderings, may we hope that the "Recording Angel may drop a tear upon them and blot them out forever." In order for this, we must do better than we have done; rely as he did upon that volume which contains the high and holy hopes of the Christian, which despite the scoffs and sneers of infidels and fools, must stand acknowledged while the world shall stand, the chart and compass of man's salvation.

The clergy as a body were more reverenced and respected in those times than at present, nor is this decline in public sentiment by any means favorable to public and private order and virtue, to morality or religion. How sweet, how purifying and healthful to society is the example and influence of a good and pious, discreet, peace-making clergyman, who loves his people and is beloved by them; how interesting the tie; "like the

shadow of a great rock in a weary land, like a beam of the East arising in a land unknown."

He was married in August 1762, to Abigail Hall, (sister of late Timothy Hall,) of Middletown, Conn. He was then 25—she 23. Their children were—

Roger, born July 2, 1763, died April 10, 1789.
Isaac, " March 16, 1765, " May 4, 1765.
Isaac, " Sept. 16, 1767, " Dec. 2, 1768.
Abigail, " June 9, 1771, married Rev. —— Lambert, now of Lyme. N. H.
Susanna, born Oct. 6, 1773, died Sept. 12, 1777.
Ozias Hall, " April 1, 1775, married Hannah Smead, he died April 8, 1815.
Isaac, born July 12, 1777.
Susanna, born April, 15, 1779, married Proctor Pierce, late of Boston.

Oct. 3, 1802 · Profession of Faith. Lord's Day. —"The following profession of faith was voted by the church to be in use for the future in lieu of the one formerly used and that those who publicly make this profession shall be received into Christian communion without making any other confession for past sins than what is implied herein." (what the former was I have not been able to ascertain.)

"Professing a firm belief in revealed religion, and that the Holy Scriptures which contain it were given by inspiration of God and resolving to take them for your rule of faith and practice, you do now say, or as you know your own heart, solemnly avouch and choose the Lord Jehovah, the only living and true God, to be your God and portion. In particular, you do take God the Father to be your Father in Heaven; the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, to be your Mediator and Savior; the Holy Ghost to be your scanctifier and guide.

"Being sensible that in many things you have offended by transgressing the law of God, you do now with peni-

tence for your sins humbly implore his forgiving mercy, and the aid of his grace to enable you henceforth to walk before God in love and in all holy conversation and godliness.

"Convinced of the importance of early instruction in virtue and piety, you now promise that you will conscientiously endeavor to train all such as are or may be committed to your care, agreeably to the prescriptions of God's Holy Word. You do also covenant with this Church of Christ, and promise that you will attend on the ministration of the word and ordinances and submit to the Christian watch, discipline and regulations of this Church, so long as God shall continue your life and abode with us. All this you profess and promise in the presence of the all seeing God, and engage by the help of his spirit and Grace to live agreeably to the same."

The settlement of Mr. Olds, in 1813, as colleague with Dr. Newton, has been mentioned in the last chapter among the doings of the town. It might, perhaps, more properly have been placed under this head. Mr. Olds was a native of Marlboro', Vt., a graduate of Williams College, and had been a Professor there. At the first attempt to settle him here, a difficulty occurred among the clergy composing the council. Rev. Samuel Willard of Deerfield, a Unitarian, was among the members, some of whom objected to proceeding, considering that it would constitute an act of fellowship with him. The council ultimately dissolved without doing the business for which they came together. Another council, called soon after, proceeded to ordain Mr. O. The occasion of his dismission has been already mentioned.

Rev. Sylvester Woodbridge of Southampton, a graduate of Williams college, was ordained over the society in April, 1817. Ordaining clergy, Revs. Theophilus Packard, J. W. Canning, Samuel Taggart, Vinson

Gould. Sermon by Rev. John Woodbridge. He was dismissed in 1823, at his own request.

After his dismissal, the society had for some time the services of Rev. Lincoln Ripley from the State of Maine, and of Rev. Eben Halping of Vermont.

Rev. Amariah Chandler, the present minister, formerly minister of Waitsfield, Vt. was ordained their pastor in 1832. Mr. C. is a native of Deerfield, and a graduate of Burlington college, Vt.

The ancient edifice, (the old meeting house) where the fathers had so long convened, was unceremoniously taken down in 1831—not to give place to another on that bleak and barren old common, Trap Plain, where it had resisted the winds and storms of three fourths of a century, but to a handsome brick edifice on a kindlier spot, near Nash's mills, on the banks of Green river, (Picomegan) and on the borders of fine meadows, and a settlement of as intelligent lords of the soil as are to be found any where, or "as the sun in his circuit shall see."

Second Congregational Society.—This society was formed in 1816, and met for a time at the court house. Their meeting house was erected in 1818–19. They had, for a considerable time, the services of Rev. Dan Huntington of Hadley. Rev. Charles Jenkins of Barre, a graduate of Williams college, was ordained their minister May 9, 1820. Ordaining clergy—Revs. Nathan Perkins, T. Packard, J. Knapp, T. F. Rogers, J. W. Canning, A. Gates, S. Woodbridge. Charges were preferred against him, (not however affecting his moral or religious character) by a part of the parish, in 1824. The council was composed of Rev. Messrs. Chickering of Phillipston, Sprague of West Springfield, Bucklin of Marlboro', Hitchcock of Conway, Hallock of Plainfield, Miller of Heath. The council reported that they did not deem it proper to advise him to ask a dismission.

He was dismissed in July 1824, by an agreement between himself and the parish, and afterwards settled at Portland, Me. where he continued till his death, in 1831. He fixed the attention of his audience by a polished style of writing, solemnity of manner, and evidently deep conviction of the truth of the religion he taught. A volume of his sermons has been published since his death.

Rev. Wm. C. Fowler, a native of Connecticut, a graduate and Tutor of Yale college, was settled in Aug. 1825. Ordaining clergy—Revs. Dr. Packard, J. W. Canning, W. B. Sprague, E. Hitchcock. Sermon by Rev. Prof. Fitch of New Haven. He was dismissed in October, 1827, on account of ill health. He has since been a Professor in the college at Middlebury, Vt. and recently been appointed a Professor at Amherst college.

Rev. Caleb Sprague Henry, of Brookfield, and a graduate of Dart. college, was ordained in January, 1829. Ordaining clergy—Rev. Messrs. Packard, Shepard, Tileston, T. S. Clark, B. F. Clark, M. B. Bradford, Crosby, Sprague, Foote, T. Packard, Jr. He was dismissed Dec. 1831, at his own request.

Rev. Thomas Bellows, of Walpole, N. H. was ordained in March, 1833. Ordaining clergy—Rev. T. Packard, T. Packard, Jr., N. Porter, A. Chandler, T. F. Clark, S. Pratt. He was dismissed in Sept. 1834, at his own request on account of ill health.

Rev. Samuel Washburn, the present minister of the parish, from the State of Maine, was settled in Aug. 1837. Ordaining clergy—Revs. Messrs. Todd of Philadelphia, Aikin of Boston, Packard, Canning, B. Fowler. Their having been for sometime destitute of the stated services of a settled minister, and their unanimity in the call of this gentleman, served to render the occasion of his ordination, one of great interest to them, and of gratification to the Christian community generally.

He established the 1st Congregational Church and Society in Philadelphia, where he preached about two

years, and relinquished the situation on account of ill health.

THIRD CONGREGATIONAL OR UNITARIAN SOCIETY.—A part of the 2d Cong. Soc. separated from them and formed themselves into a new society in May, 1825.—Rev. WINTHROP BAILEY, a native of Berlin, and graduate of Harvard college, in 1807, was their first minister. He was for a time a Tutor of Bowdoin college, Brunswick, and settled as a minister in that town for a few years.—Having, while there, changed his views in some respects, he resigned his charge; removed to, and was settled at Pelham in 1815. He was installed over this parish in Oct. 1825. Clergy assisting—Dr. Thayer, Dr. Parkman, Dr. Willard, Rev. T. F. Rogers. He continued their minister until his decease, in March, 1835, in his 51st year. Mr. B. was universally respected as a man, highly estimable in all the relations of life, who with singleness and sincerity of mind and purpose, punctiliously discharged its duties. Modest, humble, mild and unassuming, whatever you and I may think of his speculative opinions, the Christian character shone beautifully out in his blameless life. "As a preacher, though he was not of them who by their eloquence delight, he never failed to instruct his hearers. In the pulpit he commended himself to their judgment, and he was daily preaching to them by the silent eloquence of his example. He was among the pure in heart, who see God in every thing, walking in the light of his countenance, and in all good conscience before men."

Rev. JOHN PARKMAN, of Boston, a native of Brighton, and a graduate of Harvard college, was ordained Oct. 11, 1837. Clergy assisting—Revs. George Ripley of Boston, Austin of Brighton, Everett of Northfield, Hall of Dorchester, May of Leicester. Sermon by Dr. F. Parkman of Boston. Their meeting house, which is a neat and beautiful building, was finished in 1837.

PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL PARISH OF ST. JAMES' CHURCH.—This parish was formed in 1812. Rev. TITUS STRONG, of Dedham, was ordained as Priest and instituted Rector of the parish, May 26, 1815, by the Rev. A. V. Griswold, Bishop of the Diocese. Their church was finished and consecrated in 1814.

Mr. Strong was a descendant of John Strong, (first ruling elder in the church at Northampton. He was a native of Somersetshire, England, and came to this country with the Puritans, and was the father of sixteen children) and born at Brighton in this State, Jan. 1787, and ordained Deacon in the Episcopal church in 1814. He received the honorary degree of A. M. from Dartmouth University and Williams College.

METHODIST SOCIETY.—This society was formed in 1834, and a house of worship erected in 1835. Since the organization of the society, their clergymen have been, Rev. PAUL TOWNSEND, Rev. REUBEN RANSOM, and Rev. Mr. COLLINS, their present minister.

This denomination of Christians has much increased in the United States within the last few years. The gift or talent of speaking fluently and forcibly, sometimes powerfully, in many comparatively unlettered men, combined with ardent zeal, is noticeable in this denomination. If there is any thing worthy attention in religion; if there is any truth in the idea of a future retribution, and that there is, to our apprehension, the voice of nature, reason and Revelation bear conclusive testimony, then is their zeal not unworthy of imitation, at

NOTE.—Of the published works of Mr. S. are—Candid Examination of Episcopacy; Sermon on the death of J. Barnard, 1815; Sermon at institution of Rev. Mr. Howe, Claremont, N. H. 1819; Sermon at Missionary meeting in St. Pauls' church, Boston; Scholar's Guide to the History of the Bible; Young Scholar's Manual; Common Reader, &c.

least measurable. The simplicity and plainness of dress which their rules recommend, is worthy of the attention and practical application of all, and entitled to more observance than they receive. The temptations to dress are strong, particularly to the young, and indeed to others, inasmuch as the opinion of the world, and the attention men receive, especially strangers, is graduated by their outward appearance, and by these men are judged of. If you wear a shabby coat, you will be called a shabby fellow.

Their societies are, so far as observed, generally made up from the unpretending and those in the more humble walks of life. To the poor the gospel is preached.—Such were once chosen as the followers of the blessed Founder of the Christian's hope, and they too were every where spoken against. Not many wise, not many mighty were called. But that there are in an equal number of individuals in any denomination, more good and sincere men, than in another, is not pretended. Sufficient is it for us that we can worship after the manner we choose.

It is manifest that zeal is easily assumed, and unaccompanied by knowledge and practical goodness, is worthless. The world soon sees, and marks with contempt, those who have nothing to show but affected faith and inordinate selfishness and worldliness, for its eye is even upon them and the hollow professor cannot long hide himself from its fixed and steady gaze. When religion produces the peaceable fruits of righteousness, that also, is soon seen, and it is pertinent to remark, that it suffers more from false friends than open enemies.

Good men of all denominations, should act together, and it is to be lamented that the zeal which should be exerted in extending the blessed influences of religion, and endeavors to ameliorate the condition of the human race, should so much of it be bestowed only in exalting particular sects, and consumed in party feeling, and that

fire which should enlighten and purify, should be suffered to destroy. Thanks to that beneficient Power, who rules over all, and before whom the nations of men are but as grashoppers, we are not to be finally judged of man's judgment, or by the denominations to which we belong; the narrow and bigoted views and rules of men form no part of His counsels.

Episcopalians are condemned, Unitarians are condemned, Universalists are condemned, and all sects agree in finding fault with each other. Who shall judge these people? Not fallible man—exercising a power belonging only to the Supreme. The Eternal, whose thoughts are not as our thoughts, who knoweth our frame and remembereth that we are but dust; before whom those who "in every nation fear God and work righteousness, are accepted;" He is our judge.

MEMORANDA OF REV. MR. BILLING, BETWEEN OCT. 1752, AND APRIL 1756.—Ye R mr Pars says they told Him they could not have advised us to walk together in peace and love, as in ye close of the Letter to ye chh. unless I had said yt I would admit in ye old way, and some times they say they were not willing to tell ye chh I would admit sieuch unte least it should grieve or displease me. this is as much as to say they wrote something in ye Letter wh they could not have wrote truly unless I had said I would etc. I would query wherein they could propound in writing such advice without reasons to support—could they think yt their ipse dixit yt we might walk together etc. was enough to convince ye chh yt they might when they themselves allow yt we might not unless etc. But they remember there was enough said to found such an assertion upon, for I told them none stood candidates for admission at present in ye old way and if any I should in future I knew not but I might join in admitting them, tho I did not see yt I could safely at present. Moreover I told them I knew not if

any would desire admission in ye old way and there was no occasion to quarrell for I refused not communion with those in ye chh.

1753. Came from Fort Dummer 8th day Jan.—next Sabb at Green River.

19 August keept Sabb at home preached at my house and one Sabb in July preceding at home—before ye last Sabb at home preacht 5 Sabb at Greenfield before it was Greenfield preached 18 Sabb 6 of which to be paid by Deerfield and 12 to be paid by Edw Allen and Daniel Graves 8 pound per Sabb. preacht five Sabb afterwards before it was made a district which were before ye 19 Aug which day I preacht at my own house.

Preached at Greenfield 2d Sabb. in July, kept Sabb at Home once in July.

18 Sabb in ye winter and spring 1753, since which preached 5 Sabb before it was made a District or till ye 19 Aug. (and afterwards in Oct. Nov. Dec. part time.

1754. Dec ye 12, ye soldiers went from Greenfield to Ens Barruck at fall town This a grand scheem indeed of great importance to ye defence of our frontiers, for doubtless ye Barruk and soldiers will become an easy prey to ye Indians. If they invade them they having neither a fort nor a picquet and ye more men they shall take at fall town, the less they will take in other place.

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for Thanksgiving 1756,
1 piece Beef Samu Mun
Ditto Ens Childs
1-4 mutton mr D. Wells
1 spare rib and 2 chickens of Mr Nash
1 Shoulder veal and 2 fowls of sergt Smead
2 Large Fowls of Jos. Wells.
1 Fowl mrs nims
1 of mrs allen
1 Shoulder of pork Mrs Denio
2 Fowls of Mrs Graves
2 mrs Severance

About a 100 Women went in ye Governours Army; And it is said 50 women were killed at ye Engagement at ye or near ye Ohio under Genl Bradduck in 1755 perhaps swearing drinking and ——— with some other sins rendered our Arms so successless in ye yeer 1755.

An infallible specific for all those distempers which arise from a plethoric Loquacity and Indolence (vhs) clearing Land one whole day in ye weak with fasting. a Gentleman who was reduced to such a low state he yt could not ride a space of four miles without throwing animal nature into a very painful state has found ye return of his health by ye above specific.

Apl 1756 plague among ye Dogs at Boston and Hartford, ghos said a Council of Doctors sat at Hartford to consult ye specific for ye jutting sickness which a Hermit in ye woods supposed to be 2000, advised a certain Dreamer to use.

CHAPTER VIII.

Extracts from the Diary of Rev. Dr. Newton.

1790. Daily and Domes. Occurr. Missellaneous Tho'ts, &c.—July 21st. went with Mrs. Newton to Deerfield chiefly in company with Mr. Lyman and Lady, at Mr. Taylors. The company and entertainment agreeable, but something wanting to make me happy as there always has been and I fear always will be in this world. Does this arise from some evils attending my present situation or fears of those to come, or from a desire in my nature of something greater and better than

what is in this world, implanted there by my Creator, to excite me in a way of well doing to seek for glory, honor and immortality. When I returned at evening, the satisfaction I felt led me to remark the wisdom and goodness of Providence in attaching us to our several homes, whereby much interruption is prevented and our contentment greatly increased, and miserable are they that have no home, or a home that is disagreeable and which they wish to avoid. My two sons informed me they had done as I directed them, and their industry and obedience as usual were pleasing, but it is a continual burden upon my spirits that ROGER is gone, and that I have no prospect of such improvement in literary accomplishments by any other child. May this humble me and be better to me than a son shining in Courts.

July 31. A pleasant day, but made unpleasant to me by an appearance of a voluntary absence among the young people especially from public worship and more so still, by the want of a proper spirit and frame in myself—others don't do right, but I am constrained to think I do worse than they, considering my profession and situation. My feelings are not at my own command, yet it is my fault that they are no better, and is doubtless owing in great part to my neglect.

LORD'S DAY, Aug 8. Preached from Gal vi. 10.—The subject was easy, copious and important, but in the afternoon especially, spoke without feeling and with dissatisfaction on account of my own imperfections in the duty I was recommending, and being conceived as I supposed by others to be inculcating that which I did not practice myself. Experience teaches me that instructors of religion and morality in order to be happy in their employ, must really love and practice those duties which they enjoin upon others.

This day received an anonymous letter wrote with a good legible hand and in better language than common men generally use, expressing a desire that I would

shew in some public discourse whether it is right and consistent with the word of God that men should consult conjurers, and from information received from them presume to accuse particular persons of theft or any other crime, who cannot be found guilty in an ordinary way. This motion I conclude was made because heretofore Mr. Cooke consulted a conjurer, and of late, Mr. L. H. both members of Church, and the author of the letter says it is a growing practice, and represents a number of the Brethren as feeling concerned to have this matter discussed in a serious scriptural manner. Accordingly it appeared to be my duty to preach a sermon relative to it so soon as Providence may give a proper opportunity.

Aug. 22. Preached both parts of the day concerning Conjurors and the propriety of consulting them, from 1 Sam'l. xxviii. 8. The subject being new appeared to gain a little more attention than common.

Monday, Aug. 23. Read the Monthly Magazine for June, and several Papers from the Printer at New York. I found little in them either profitable or entertaining; this however may be owing to my restless age rather than to any defect in them, but I think there might be a great saving to the people without any injury, by diminishing the number of Printers. Upon a review of this day and my life back, I feel the pertinency of Bishop Burnett's expressions: "for what is this life but a circulation of little mean actions. We lie down and rise again," &c. &c. &c.

Aug 27, 1790. This day is 28 years since my nuptials were celebrated; since then I have met with many unexpected events both pleasing and displeasing, which teaches me that I know not what is to come, but this I know, that my time is short.

Nov. 25, 1790. Thanksgiving Day, Text, Zech. vii. 6. Nov. 26. The day spent among us as usual in visiting and recreations. In afternoon visited by Mrs. ——, and her sister R. a young lady of a serious turn of mind,

who refused going to a dance, seemingly upon principle, but in my own mind I conceive of dancing being an innocent diversion in itself, though usually carried to excess and attended with unbecoming behavior.

Jan. 1, 1791. The weather cold and stormy like the world in which we dwell, and 'tis melancholy to think what little occasion I have to expect happiness as is wished from the New Year.

Sunday, 15. Mr. ——— came to see me, under great impressions from a dream, and with a seeming engaged purpose of reforming his life.

Lord's Day, May 1. Preached from Rom. xiv. 17. But not much to my own, nor as I trust, to any others satisfaction.

May 4, 1791. This day my second son Isaac has been dead 26 years. His life might have given wholly a new turn to my outward and temporal affairs, for great and numerous events are sometimes connected with one in itself small. If he had lived, the children that succeeded might have had no existence or be of a different sex, and otherwise in their genius, disposition and education than they are now. He might have been publicly educated, and Roger a farmer, and from their settlement in the world I might have members of the second generation from me rising in the world; or it might have been something different from all this, no body knows what; it is ordered as it now is by an infinite unerring mind whose course stands to all generations and whose original plan amidst the seeming confusion that is in the world and casual events, is continually accomplishing and will be through the endless ages of Eternity. I, therefore ought to be contented, though many events take place that are disagreeable to me, and submissive to the purposes and designs which I have eagerly formed. There is no prospect that I shall see in this world, as many more years as have revolved since the death of my second son, and as these have been filled up with various

unexpected events, so it is probable that share of time will be, that remains for me. But to sickness and mortality and trouble in my family I ought to consider myself exposed, and to have my passions so subdued, my affections moderated in such a manner towards each of my household and all earthly things, as that I may have them separated from me by Providence, or I from them, without any murmuring or overbearing distress. May the great Ruler and searcher of hearts give me such a frame! and may I endeavor after the same, by contemplating upon such truths and attending upon such means as lead to it.

July 20, 1791. This day completed a year since this Journal begun—which has rolled round insensibly with a sameness daily in respect to its events. *There is no new thing under the sun.* What is and shall be, has been—human life is filled up with a repetition of the same duties, the same labors, engagements and sufferings—upon the whole this has been a very prosperous year, tho' no great events have taken place in it—especially on account of the health that has been enjoyed in my family. According to the ordinary course of things there can be no change in my outward circumstances materially for the better. The probability is, from my period of life and other things, they will soon alter much for the worse. Prepare O my soul to meet thy God!

Aug. 10, 1791. This day reminds us of one of the most sorrowful events ever sustained by man; the death of Roger, my oldest and dearly beloved son, who died Aug. 10, 1789. Being accustomed to this bereavement, it is less severely felt, in a general way, than at the beginning, though it still lies at heart and always will as one of the heaviest burthens upon my mind. No father ever, seemingly stood in greater need of such a son, and it is I conceive a sore thing amongst parents to have such a son, but this opinion perhaps is owing to the partiality of a father. I desire to remember that the same

all-perfect God who gave this son hath taken him away, and that infinite wisdom as well as righteousness always attends his Providence.

May 11, 1792. Began to write upon Rev. xvii. 22. A merry heart doeth good like a medicine, &c.

May 12. This being my birth day on which I am 55 years old, reminds me that my life must be drawing to a close.

Dec. 19, 1792. About 5 o'clock this morning, Eliel Gilbert's house was consumed by fire, supposed to catch the preceding evening in manteltree of the west lower room. A subscription in his behalf was set forward which in a few hours appeared to amount nearly to £100.

Aug. 10, 1793. It being this day four years since my son Roger died, the sorrows of that event are sensibly revived.

May 12, 1794. This day adds another year to my number being now 57 years of age. My days are spent as a tale that is told; what remains of time for me will soon be closed.

June 4, 1794. Heard Reuel Willard affirm in conversation with Daniel Forbes that the north line of the street as run by Mr. Root of Montague strikes the north side of the chimney of Mr. Jerom Ripley's store about four feet from the front of his dwelling house north.

1794. Drew in from the street in making my fence west from the store three or four feet in order to have it range with Mr. Pierce's fence which stands still farther west.

May 22, 1796. Voted, members of this church residing in Gill, might with others, form themselves into a church by themselves in that place.

July 27, 1797. The bend in the street against Jerom Ripley, Esq. and which by the running of the fence has been straitening from time to time for several years past, is now made still straiter by the building of his door-yard and consequently the street is made narrow and

deviates from its lines as they were originally laid—my fence against said Ripley's is drawn in several feet from where my old stone wall stood as may now be made manifest by the remainder in the ground of some of the foundation.

May 2, 1799. At a regular church meeting warned for the purpose of choosing a Deacon and attending to the situation and conduct of Dr. Billings; Jonathan Leavitt was chosen Deacon. Dr. Billings by the vote of the church was permitted to return to their christian fellowship, in compliance with his desire, notwithstanding he differed from them in some of his religious sentiments, particular in his opinion that all mankind will receive a final and everlasting salvation by Jesus Christ.

May 2, 1805. Dea Ebenezer Graves and Dea. David Smead excused at their request from serving any longer as Deacons, on account of age and infirmities. Solomon Smead, Esq. and Proctor Pierce were then chosen.

Feb. 24, 1806. This day read Jay's sermons, among others that upon Ezek. xxix. 17–20. from which a question arose in my mind, viz. Why Nebuchadnezzar should be rewarded for undesignedly executing the will of God, in conquering Tyre, when the Assyrian was punished for accomplishing the purpose of God in fighting and laying waste his own covenant people as related in 10th Chap. Isaiah. The only reason for this different treatment I could think of was this—it was in the heart of the Assyrian in what he did to act against the most High God, whereas Nebuchadnezzar had no such purpose in conquering Tyre.

Read the G. Gazette and saw in it Miss ——'s marriage to ——. She had a right not to call upon me to administer the marriage covenant, but I placed it among many other marks of inattention and disrespect, of this kind which I have met with in this place and which while they shew a want of regard to religion, do also evidence

perhaps that there has been wanting in me a manifestation and due attention and respect to my people.

In the evening read the New York Herald and was glad to find it confirmed that victory turned in favor of the Russians, in that great battle of the 2d, 3d and 4th Dec. last. But so many slain by fightings which come from the lusts of men, is a melancholy consideration.—May the Most High hush the European nations and all others to peace.

I have this day had no society but my family and even this is amusing—without which, like the man who lost his mouse in the prison, I should be miserable. Solitude must be my portion the remaining part of life, seeing my nearest and best earthly friend is in the grave*; but I think of the moral philosopher, who said he was never less alone than when alone. My people appear not to think on me except when I visit at their houses, which is rarely by reason of my advanced age and particular circumstances, but I think much on them and should feel rejoiced could I prepare suitable entertainment for them on the Lord's day, and properly perform in other respects the duties of a Gospel minister.

March 7, 1806. Read the Newspapers with greediness, but caught little or nothing but what it was best to throw away.

April 5, 1806. I know not but that I make myself daily uneasy because my troubles are not greater than they be, but small as they are they will disturb and vex me, especially the inattention which the people pay to what I suffer by the depreciation of money. Not one man from 1774, has shown as I recollect, any disposition to make any consideration, but all have and continue to pay the mere nominal sum, in the most advantageous way they can, and appear glad they have an opportunity to pay it so easily, and unless I am too jealous,

* Mrs. Newton died in October previous.

they are not so kind to me, as those among them who are friends to one another. Mrs. A. L. excepted, none of them upon any particular occasion, as sickness, deaths, funerals, associations, have complimented me with a piece of fresh meat, for nearly perhaps forty years. This is very singular and once unlooked for, but soon expected after my settlement in the ministry. I have sometimes suffered great inconvenience in consequence of this neglect—have lived below what I wished and what I thought reasonable and could not entertain friends without too much trouble to Mrs. Newton, a woman given to hospitality and whose feelings were hurt through life, that she was noticed by those she loved and who were in affluent circumstances, with so little generosity, and with so much less than is common for ministers wives of her good accomplishments to experience this oppressive and cold neglect, which in my view has been used towards me has made my work of the ministry hard and irksome, as might naturally be expected in one who loves the world and friendship as well as I do.

But what more especially disquiets me is an apprehension that this anti-ministerial conduct in my people, is owing in a measure to something wrong in myself, which they know and feel, but do not inform me of—for I hear nothing as an apology but my wealth, which it seems they have a faculty of estimating high, so that a few acres of ground here, in a peculiar expensive situation, is much better to live upon than double the acres in Leyden or Colerain. It will be, I presume, the little time I have to live, as it has been, except worse; and as I can see more faults in myself than in others, my complaint must be principally turned against myself and my business be to amend my own heart and life, and go on in the ministry cheerfully and faithfully, according to my remaining powers, or pass into retirement and show a penitential, humble Christian life there; my time I would recollect, is short for remaining either in public or private

station, being now near the close of the 69th year of my life.

Friday, May 2, 1806. Spent my time in my study, and think I feel best, when I have least to do with the world in general and though I do not wish to die, I long to be where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest.

April 28, 1808. It being signified to the church that Samuel Guild had asked Deacon Graves to return a small pecoter vessel which he gave to the church more than 40 years ago. Voted that it should be returned upon his renewing his application. Said Guild was formerly an inhabitant of this town and a member of this church; he has since turned Baptist after removing to Leyden, and whether his requesting his gift of 3s value back, is owing to a peculiar littleness of mind or some good and honorable motive, I am not called upon to record.

May 23, 1812. This day I am seventy-five years old. I shall not and I would not live always.

The number of children and others, baptised by Dr. N. up to Dec. 20, 1803, was 827.

CHAPTER IX.

Biographical Sketches and Anecdotes of Men of Olden Times

"For men are like the waves that roll
Along the mighty deep—
That lift their crests awhile and frown,
And then are lulled to sleep;
While other billows swelling come,
Amid the foam and spray,
And as we view their furrowy track,
Sink down, and—where are they!"

JAMES CORSS, THE HUNTER.

James Corss was a mighty hunter, a very Nimrod in his day. The age of fishing and hunting, such as it was in the days of the fathers, has long since passed away. Such game as the Indian pursued, has, with him, the son of the forest, long since disappeared; the fish from the river and the deer from the woods.

Hunting, in modern phrase, is not a circumstance, not to be mentioned or compared with what was hunting and game in the olden time, and was then, of itself, an occupation. The hunting of our day is pretty much confined to the pursuit of a few harmless birds, squirrells, red and grey, chipmucks, partridges, rarely a coon, sometimes a woodchuck, and under the favor, protection and patronage of the Commonwealth, to black birds, foxes and crows. The skunk nobody wants, yet is he, even he, sometimes hunted; pah! too strong, by half—ignoble game.

A noble stag or deer, such as once had their quarters hereabout, where once they stalked in majesty, free, unconfined, and almost undisturbed, as plenty as blackberries, or even the sneaking and dastardly varmynt, the

wolf, would now be a great curiosity, and the whole town would be moved and collected to catch a glimpse at them. Their fellow tenants and companions of the forest, in their now degraded state, sometimes visit the land of their ancestors, but the deer never comes—and will never again occupy these haunts of men for their pasture ground.

Our ancestors, in their annual town meetings, elected deer-reeves, as much a matter of course, as we now do all the newly married men to take care of the inoffensive grunting swine, or surveyors of boards, plank, timber and slit work.

Of the privations, hardihood, toils and dangers, frugal habits and unyielding spirit of the old hunters and first settlers, we can form no adequate idea. They were men of iron; bold, active, determined and persevering; neither dismayed by danger, frozen by cold, nor melted by heat. The hunter roamed free, far and wide over mountain and river, through dingle and copse and glen, regardless of town lines or state lines. He loved the range of the forest, the mountain and the river side, and the *side* of the stately deer.

The forest and the wild were the hunters home, and mid all his exposures, by day and by night, his heart was unappalled; and at night, after long and lonely wanderings—

> "He lays him down and rests his head,
> Upon a rock 'till morn; then rising fresh
> Pursues his wonted game,
> And if the following day he chance to find
> A new repast, or an untasted spring,
> Blesses his stars and thinks it luxury."

Nature's volume was open before him, her fruits and flowers and all her stores, and he daily read, as well the most sublime as the most simple of her pages. Disregarding—indeed ignorant of the forms now governing society; remote, for days together, from any human in-

tercourse, he communes with nature and her works; happy in the solitude of the deep, interminable woods, and his ample and undisputed range.

To us, it would seem that the very silence and unbroken solitude of the vast forests must have been appalling. Nature, virgin nature, reigned there alone and there was her temple. He felt not his loneliness, for the woods were his home, and he cheerfully exchanged the endearments of his rude cabin, for his long and lonely rambles o'er hill and dale, unaccompanied, save by his rifle and trusty blood hound, unlike the lazy and pampered puppies of our degenerate days, who shrink from the barking of the fox or even the sound of the "rabbit's tread."

James Corss' hunting ground took in all the north part of this County west of the Conn. river, and the bordering towns in Vermont; his trap path, as it was called, was from trap plain, where the first meeting house stood, north to Bernardston. A trap was kept constantly set at the spring in front of the house of Samuel Pickett, Esq. He usually had two traps chained together; they were marked with three hacks on the bottom of the bar. Two of these traps have been found in the north part of the town within the last half century. He placed his bait on the bushes overhanging the spring, where the wolves resorted to drink, and in settling down after taking the bait, their fore legs generally fell into and sprung his trap, and the dastardly and thievish miscreants were thus taken.

There was a bounty of £4. on wolves, and according to an account of the exp'oits of James Corss, in this line, kept by one Ebenezer Nims, he received as bounty, £600—by others said $600, by others that he destroyed in his life time 900 wolves—(a glorious uncertainty rests over it,) at any rate he realized a snug fortune for those days. A monument in the old burial ground, has the name of James Corss, died in 1783,

aged 90. He lived at the old house on the site of that of late Judge Leavitt, a fort in the time of the Indian wars. This house was burned down, and Dan Corss, son of James, built the house, a little east, now owned by Mr. R. Hall.

The wolf was a troublesome animal, cruel and thievish. But the noble and gentle deer—where are they? Except a few about Sandwich, gone with the wild and persecuted Indian to the western wilds. These will soon be wilds no longer, and where shall the Indian and the deer go then? Answer me that.

James Corss went a hunting two days in each week regularly, besides his occasional excursions. On one occasion he found a wolf in his trap, with one leg broken. The villain showed fight and made at him. James had grappled with too many of the family to be scared by him. Nothing daunted, he caught the marauder by his posterior appendage, vulgarly called the tail, and seizing a small bush, as the fellow pulled ahead to get away, James would pull him back and switch him in no gentle manner. Thus they kept pulling and sawing in opposite directions, wolf being willing to go and quit even, but James would n't let him, for he wanted the bounty, till he worried him out.

Note.—In 1642, the Court of New Plymouth Colony enacted, that all the towns within the Government shall make wolf trapps and bayte them and look unto them dayly upon the penalty of X's a trap that shall be neglected.

In 1665, an act provides, That in every township, there bee two sufficient woulfe trapps and to bee constantly bayted and dayly attended upon the penaltie of five pounds.

In 1636, whoever shall kill a wolfe and make it suffic. knowne to the gov. shall have four bushell of corne to be payed of the constablerick or liberties.

ANECDOTES OF AARON DENIO.

Mr. D. of whom a great many anecdotes are still told, was a native of Canada. His father was a Frenchman, Tradition informs us that he came to Deerfield when quite young, in company with some Indians, on a visit to a family by the name of Stebbins, who were related to him. When the Indians were ready to return, they were unable to find him, and returned without him. His connexions finding him very smart and active, were disposod to have him remain with them and concealed him, probably with his consent. Tradition further informs us that the Indians afterwards returned to Deerfield and committed depredations there in consequence of the detention of Mr. D.

He kept a tavern for many years in the house now occupied by Miss C. Willard, which he built and which has weathered the storms of nearly a century. He bought the estate of Joseph Allen, who removed to Bernardston about ninety years ago.

In all these ancient mansions, the fire places originally used would hold a fourth of a cord of wood, and in cold weather often did. Wood was not then 21s. the cord. Half a dozen persons might sit under and within their capacious mantle-pieces.

This house was much resorted to, as well by the weary traveller as by the merry men of Deerfield, and the country all about, and if the old linings of the walls had memory and speech, they would unfold much of story and of song, and tell of many a revel which consumed the drowsy watches of the night,

"When tales much older than their ale went round."

In 1753, Mr. D. was chosen a Deer reeve, and a committee to supply the then district with preaching:—In 1754, one of the selectmen, and one of a committee to wait on Rev. Mr. Billing relative to his being instal-

led. He was, like his nation, spirited, active and lively. One day he said to Mrs. D.—My dear, what shall we have for dinner to-day; what have you got in the pot? To this she made no reply, or merely said, victuals.—He persisted in his inquiry. My dear, what have you got in the pot over the fire, I vill know. She, with the same indifference answered as before. Whereat the little patience with which nature had gifted him became utterly extinct. Nature could bear no more. He incontinently seized the aforesaid pot from its smoky hangings, saying, I —— I vill know what is in that pot, and hastily made his way to the brow of the steep hill back of the house, and furiously threw the unoffending vessel down the hill, and on it went, rolling and tumbling and tossing horribly, mid the steam of the boiling fluid, out came, mingled in dread confusion, pudding, potatoes, pork, beef, cabbage, beets and turnips, still on it went and on to the bottom of the hill, to the utter dismay and consternation of all peaceable, well disposed and good-potluck-dinner-loving citizens, and in evil example to all others in like kind to offend. He gained his point but lost his dinner. Since the days of Don Quixote was never such an adventure undertaken; the attack upon the windmill is not to be mentioned on the same day.

It seems probable that he was rather of a testy, impatient humor, not peculiar to his nation, or at any rate, sometimes inclined to that mood, and that his customers and acquaintances thought proper at times to make it conducive to their own amusement. It was the custom of many of the good people of this town and Deerfield to meet at his house of an evening as often as once a week, for social converse, upon the affairs of state, and town; to hear and tell the news, to take care of their neighbor's characters and concerns; prices current of all things bought and sold in the country, (for it should be noted here that the course of trade was then and long after, very different from what it now is, the produce

of the country went into the hands of the traders in the country in payment for their goods and they transported it to market, many of them became their own teamsters and drovers,) all and singular, doubtless, matters and things in general; prospects of the weather and the crops, and various and multifarious as are Bar-room topics, joking the worthy landlord and one another, whiling away in cheerful chat, wit and humor, sparkling and flashing like bottled beer, the drowsy hours of a winter's night. Where are they now? Where the merry joke, the loud laugh which would make the beams and rafters part from their fastenings? The sands of their glass have long since run out; long since themselves have loosened from their moorings, launched into the interminable Ocean of Eternity.

On one of these occasions of their evening meetings, it was understood by his guests, among themselves, that no one should call for any refreshment as had been usual, in order to try what effect this new order of things would have upon the temper of their host. So said, so done. They conversed for a long time (so it seemed to the Landlord) upon topics which came up, but no hint or intimation came out of profit to him for the good fire. This state of things could not be long endured. Some change there must be He became very uneasy. He went in and out of the bar frequently, sometimes rapidly, moving the tumblers and other furniture to and fro; from the fire to the bar, from the bar to the fire, putting on more wood, punching and stirring it, now this stick now that; his movements became more and more rapid and impatient, until at length he was anticipated, that patience so often tried became totally and entirely exhausted, defunct. He exclaimed suddenly, a good fire gentlemen, good fire, very good fire, and the astounding question, gentlemen what will you please to have to drink? This was enough—the old walls of the mansion shook with the burst and roar of laughter which ensued,

and how many went home sober, verily, doth not appear.

On one occasion, he was at the mill with grain to be floured, and after it was poured into the hopper, Uncle David, as he was called, proceeded to take the toll as usual, and continued dipping in the toll dish, time after time, the toll increasing, the grist diminishing, fearfully diminishing, until Mr. D. began to be alarmed at the probable consequences of this novel, and to his view, unusual and unwarrantable procedure. Not being overstocked with that cardinal and absolutely indispensible virtue, patience, nor suspecting that Mr. W. was merely putting it to the trial, and thinking that after such oft repeated visits of the toll dish to his grist, forbearance had ceased to be a virtue, he burst out: I do sw—ee—r, Mr. Wells, if you will take the grist and leave me the toll, I will very much thank you.

A traveller came in one day asking for a small matter of bread and cheese (wherewith to allay the cravings of hunger,) which were directly set before him—Landlord Denio, as he was always called, meanwhile watching his performance. The onslaught upon the eatables, was powerful and destructive enough for a man who wanted rather a whole sirloin than such dry materials. Denio watched the slices of bread and cheese, disappearing one after the other in quick succession, with consternation and dismay, till his patience could hold out no longer, and he addressed the astonished traveller—" if you will stop now, you are welcome, entirely welcome to what you have eat." How the affair ended the deponent knoweth not.

EBER ATHERTON.

Many anecdotes are related of his propensity to tell great stories. He resided in the village and in 1767 was a surveyor of highways. He used to relate that on

one occasion, he wanted to go to the island at the falls to take SHAD, but could find no boat, they being all at the island. He bethought him that Mr. Howland, living near by, had a pair of snow shoes, which he procured and easily succeeded in getting to the island on the backs of the shad. He took that day, according to his own account, and as he chose to express it, one thousand and fifteen hundred. The incredulous reader may entertain honest, nay, very serious doubts as to the truth of this, and call it a "fish story," but cannot expect the writer to go about to establish the truth of one so old. It seems probable the man had a queer idea about the relation of facts.

The following statement, from good authority, furnishes no extravagant idea of the immense numbers which literally thronged the Connecticut half a century ago. The father of an individual now living in this town, on one occasion while fishing on the island at the falls, at the usual season, April and May, (a June shad was despised; "as thin as a June shad." is or was a common expression for leanness,) found it impossible to force his scoop net entirely into the water, by one third at least, the fish were so numerous, and his net so quickly filled, while the river literally swarmed and was alive with them, and they lay on the shore in piles like haycocks. Indeed, they were so common and cheap that people were ashamed to be seen carrying them home and took every precaution to avoid being seen with them. Many and whimsical anecdotes are still related by the old folks, of the expedients resorted to, to avoid discovery. They were sometimes sold as low as a penny each.

NOTE. Those families of the name of Atherton who have resided in town from early times are descendants of Rev. Hope Atherton, of Hatfield, who was with the army at the Fall fight in 1676, and in the retreat was separated

Eber used to relate the following story of what occurred to him when on a visit to Boston about the time of the American Revolution. In the course of his rambles about the town, he chanced where some persons were looking through a telescope to discern some British vessels of war lying at anchor at a distance in the harbor, not at all or scarcely visible by the naked eye. He requested the privilege of looking through this, to him new and wonderful instrument, and it was granted. The simple folk of this village would not believe a word of his statement that the instrument which so much assisted his vision could also add to the scope or capacity of the organ of hearing. He said he could plainly see the red coats and yellow buttons of the soldiers on board, and such horrid oaths and imprecations as they uttered, he had never before heard, and they continued their profanity as long as he continued looking at them, 'till it loo ed blue all around. But the earthquake at Shelburn mountain, which he saw, when hunting for coons, which when the earth closed sent the leaves up to the heavens, was a caution.—Whether Eber expected to be believed in his statements, or only took this way to amuse himself, does not appear. Evidently, there is in some men from their youth up, a want of a proper sense of the moral turpitude of falsehood; a kind of predisposition to it, with an apparent notion that it is of little consequence whether they tell truth or not. There is also a predisposition or natural propensity in others to some particular vice, some besetting sin; of the impropriety of indulging in it they undoubtedly have a much less vivid idea than others and are less prone to resist. Hence in our

from them. Lost and hungry, he offered himself as a captive to the Indians—who from mysterious cause, would not receive him; when he spoke to them they would not answer, and when he moved towards them, fled away. He followed the course of the river and got home.

judgment of men, this fact is to be taken into consideration; placed in the same situation, having the same dispositions, sensibilities, propensities—meeting with the same temptations, &c. should we come out of the furnace of life, less scathed than they. Those who have never been tempted or exposed, may call their coldness virtue, if they choose. Every man is himself the greatest sinner he knows of, because he knows more of the depravity of his own heart and motives, than another can know, and less of his neighbor than himself must know. Therefore judge charitably of the motives of others, and err rather on the side of charity. Men judge of persons and things, as they either oppose or favor their opinions, or interests.

PHILLIS AND JACK.

The following anecdotes of the Olden Times, may amuse some of my young readers, (such I hope to have) and I trust will not be considered out of place here, though not of a particularly serious character. It will be recollected, that, previous to the year 1780, the holding of slaves was allowed, and slavery existed in a mild form in New England, and though few were held in bondage hereabout, still there were some. One, a female, Tenor, was a slave to Rev. Mr. Newton. Phillis, comely, fair, and well to look upon, free as air, so far as she felt or knew or cared, and gay as the lark, was the daughter of Tenor (she was called old Tenor, for she had a daughter of the same name and complexion), lived with her mother at Mr. N's. Tenor, it appears, was a very staid, well behaved and kind hearted personage; that dusky covering enclosed a heart alive to the best sympathies of human nature. On the event of her death, Dr. N. preached a sermon, in which among other matters and things, he gave her the character of being "no pilferer," &c.

At the period of the following adventures, this young damsel was about sweet sixteen. Another female of the same complexion lived near, and a colored man named Jack, lived with Col. More. This trio frequently met, and on one occasion the two females were amusing themselves by getting into a barrel, with both heads out, and rolling part way down the hill west of the High School, by some means contriving to stop themselves midway of the hill. They persuaded Jack to believe that this was most excellent fun. Whereupon he courageously entered the cask aforesaid and immediately proceeded on his tour of observation and pleasure, wool erect, assisted no doubt in starting by a gentle push from the ladies aforesaid. Neither remonstrance nor intreaty would stop the cask in its rapid and downward career, but on it went and on, mid the chuckling and laughter of these cruel damsels, until it encountered one of the large walnut trees we have mentioned, when with a horrible crash, the hoops and staves of the barrel parted company and scattered themselves far and wide in all directions. Poor Jack was terribly bruised, but after some time, recovered, not however again to try the experiment or renew the journey. But still it seems he did not *take*.

His visits at the Rev. Doctor's were frequent, and becoming rather tedious to Phillis, she resorted to an expedient to be rid of them. At one of his evening visits, she was carding tow, and contrived to shuffle some of it near and about his feet without his particular notice or suspicion, when suddenly as if by accident, she let the candle fall among it, and the flame spread up and around

"Like flambeau flashing to the morning skies."

The ceiling was of wood, and for a time the house seemed in danger, but the fire was soon got under, by the assistance of the good Doctor and his family, who

were aroused by the uproar from their meditations in the next room. Phillis confessed, Jack was sadly burnt, took the hint, and troubled her with his visits but very seldom, after this explosion.

As for Phillis, she never once thought of marrying Jack—no indeed—not she—the disparity in their age was too great; she was, as has been mentioned, about sweet sixteen, in the very bloom of youth, and life and beauty, and he was about 40—perhaps a twelvemonth or so, more.—Here was fearful odds. Such a project would have been, in her view, ridiculous in the extreme; no, it would never do, and whether he ever went so far in the journey of courtship as to pop the question in her ebony ear doth not appear.—Certain it is that she undertook to prescribe for the wounds he received in the affair of rolling down hill in the barrel. The most grievous wound was on the shin. The application she recommended was either beef brine or dry salt; the best authority says, the latter, and she suited the action to the word by immediately throwing salt into the wound. Since the days of Hippocrates or Galen, such a prescription or remedy was never thought of, heard of, read of or conceived. Besure, salt will cure and preserve fresh meat, and it may be that "upon this hint she spake," reasoning perhaps philosophically. This was a little too much. Human nature could bear no more. There is a point beyond which endurance cannot go. Any thing else he might have borne. Time, language, and the reader's patience would fail, should an attempt be made to describe the contortions, the faces and grimaces he made on the application of the brine prescription. Suffice it to say, he broke the tie which bound him to this faithless and treacherous damsel, this mistress of his affections, and was never again seen among the train of her admirers. Phillis afterwards married Cæsar Finemur, the son of Romus and Rose, and had 13 children, all of whom died save one. One of her descendants

seems to partake somewhat of her frolicksome humor and freaks of fancy, having recently been engaged in a riot as a partner, on the Shutesbury common, and is now receiving his punishment. As for any further account of Jack, whether he ever again became entangled in the meshes of love, the historian saith not, because he knoweth not.—But the trick which Phillis played off upon a Rev. Clergyman who called on an extreme cold day after a long cold ride, by mixing too much strong water with that of weaker composition, it will not do to tell of—no that will never do.

COL. WILLIAM MOORE.

The name of William Moore, a native of Rutland, Worcester Co. although he is unknown to any of the present generation, and to few of the present inhabitants of this town, is still familiar to some, as that of an individual of great enterprise and business talents, of stately figure and fine personal appearance, a finished gentleman of the old school, much respected and beloved, and the pioneer of business in this place. Those who remember him seem to delight to talk about him and his day among them, and his name is associated in the minds of men with every thing generous and noble. He was, in fact, the soul and life of business and enterprise. He erected on the site of the present grist-mill, a mill six stories high, for flouring wheat, which was then abundant in this region. He had at the same time in operation, works for making nails, coopering, preparing Ginseng, Tanworks, a potash, where a great business was done; a slaughter house, in which 500 head of cattle were barrelled yearly; a tallow house, dry house, two stores, one between the present Stage House and Hall and Co's Store, where the road now passes (it is

not many years since this now great thoroughfare was called the new road) and another called the large or great store, where the county gaol now stands. To use the language of those who now speak of him, "he employed an army of men," but as the saying is, "he had too many irons in the fire."

He was at one period largely concerned in business at Hartford, Conn. and Peacham, Vt. and now resides in Montreal—an Inspector of Beef.—He came here about the year 1784. Very little mechanical or mercantile business had been done in the town previous to his commencing, and by his means some of those now living here, and men of enterprise and industry, became inhabitants, and were for a time in his employ—Capt. Ambrose Ames, a native of Bridgewater, in nail making, —the late Mr. Benjamin Swan, David Wait and Mr. William Wait, from Groton, in the coopering business,— and about that time many others established themselves here, among whom were the late Col. Eliel Gilbert, a native of Brookfield, a man of enterprise and for many years a Representative of the town,—Mr. Samuel Pierce, from Middletown, Connecticut, and others.

NOTE. The upper story of Moore's Mill was in the time of the late war occupied by S. Hunt & Co. for a cotton factory, and afterwards by Joel Parker. A small cellar under the mill was used in Col. Moore's day, as tradition says, by Mr. Goffe, the miller, and one Jenks, a one armed man, for counterfeiting silver coin. They were taken, and Goffe turned state's evidence. Goffe erected a dam some distance below the cutlery works and a little above the old brick yard, without right, and abutted it on Moore's land; he and his workmen cut away one end of it, and the next flood swept away the balance. The Oil Mill on the east side, formerly improved by A. Ames and S. Pierce, was taken down a few years ago.—The other buildings, improved by Mr. Martindale as a satinet factory, and the sawmill, &c. were swept away in a flood, Dec. 1836.

Previous to Col. Moore's day the mills were owned by Mr. David Wells, familiarly known by the name of Uncle David, who is remembered by very few. He gave a bell to the school district in this village, on which his name is inscribed; his grave is among us—without a stone to mark the spot—the identical place of his sepulture no man knoweth to this day. "But little he recks if they'll let him sleep on." Peace to his ashes. His heirs inherited his estate in the usual course of such matters, neglecting, perhaps forgetting the proper tribute of respect due the dead. In his day Salmon and Shad were plenty in our rivers. He once observed a salmon attempting to leap over the dam of the mill in Green river; at the second leap he went some distance down the stream before he turned to make his effort to leap the dam, and rose far enough up by his leap barely to touch the top of the dam with his gills; falling back, he went still farther down the stream than before, and turning again, as if to acquire a momentum, renewed his efforts and leaped at least six feet above the top of the dam, and passed into the stream above. This looks like reasoning and calculation. The above fact was recently communicated to the writer by a respectable citizen of Deerfield. Salmon were formerly taken as far up as Whitingham, though rarely.

His Courtship.—The latter part of his days were passed in the family of the late Mr. Timothy Hall, who lived where Col. S. Root now does, where he died a bachelor, at an advanced age. Tradition informs us that he had contracted matrimony with a lady, whose name is not known, and that it was broken off by the following queer circumstance. It was the custom sometimes at raising buildings, to invite those who assisted, which then comprised all the neighborhood, (as occasionally at this day) frequently a whole town, to a supper got up expressly for the occasion. Such a case occurred to Uncle David. The lady referred to was present, and

he invited her to take the head of the table and do the honors thereof to the guests. Whether from native diffidence, or from an idea that it was improper, or from coquetry, or because her love was cold, or from some one of the inexplicable, unmentionable freaks of fancy, to which females are liable and sometimes give way, (for who can sound the depths of a woman's mind (or man's either) or find an answering reason to his queries thereunto relating) or whether she was, to use a meaning, though vulgar phrase, "one of the ——— unaccountables," cannot now be told: but she persisted in declining the intended honor, which he had probably long calculated to confer upon her as a signal mark of his love and affection. Neither tradition nor the faithful page of history throw any light upon this matter.

This was a disappointment so unlooked for, so unexpected, so mortifying to his feelings, that he could not brook it. "The iron entered into his soul." As this was his first love, so it was his last: as he had never loved before, so he never loved again. Their courtship ended then.

'O woman, in our hours of ease,
'Uncertain, coy, and hard to please,
'When pain and anguish wring the brow,
'A ministering angel thou!'

Thus saith the poet, and so far as the observation and experience of the writer goeth, he confirmeth the truth of the poet's affirmation.

The Huskings of those days which collected whole neighborhoods of young and old, were (and until within the last twenty years continued to be) great occasions, of evening industry, feasting and mirth: and not equalled in their simple neighborly exchange of good feeling, by the more refined taste, distinctions, false delicacy,

heart. The first part of his life was darkened by the loss of two wives, and five first born children.

To say that he was a friend to his country and his fellow man, would be too weak an expression of his feelings. He loved them. He was one of the first who came forward in town and voted to risk *life* and *fortune*, for the Independence of his country; was out several times, three months at a time, with the militia; was at Fort Edward on short allowance when Burgoyne was taken; at West Point when Arnold fled from the consequences of his treachery, on board the Vulture, and for the first time in his life saw Washington, who was there looking after Arnold;

> "'Twere worth ten years of peaceful life,
> "One glance at their array;"

received the commission of Captain, July 1, 1781, the same day on which he was ordered to West Point, and took the command of 113 men.

On his return home he called out his company at the Old North Meeting House (now demolished), and formed them into platoons, which was then a new mode here, it never having been done before; it was an innovation upon Indian file, which astonished the people. He cared not for office, but the people cared to have him in office as often as they could. He was twenty-one years assessor, selectman, overseer of the poor, and several times member of the Legislature, &c. &c.

As was his life so was his death, peaceful and serene: not a cloud settled upon his horizon or obscured his vision. His earnest prayer was, that he might not outlive his mind and usefulness; he was willing to depart at any time, and spoke of his last change as of the ordinary business of life. He seemed to retire from life, like one well satisfied; who had had enough; and to resign himself like an obedient child to the will of a father, in whom it confides as knowing what is best for its

happiness. He trusted in Him "whose fan is in his hand, who will gather his wheat into his garner."

In the old burying ground a little east of the old meeting house site and near the scene of his early labors, lie the remains of himself, his father, and his two brothers, John and Samuel Newton. He died in December 1824, æt. 75, followed to the grave by the respect of all men, a shock of corn, indeed fully ripe.

"So live, that when thy summons comes, to join
The innumerable caravan that moves
To the pale realms of shade, where each shall take
His chamber in the silent halls of death,
Thou go not like the quarry slave at night
Scourged to his dungeon, but sustain'd and sooth'd
By an unfaltering trust, approach thy grave,
Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch
About him, and lies down to pleasant dreams."

Capt. CALEB CLAPP.—The lapse of a quarter of a century has not obliterated from the minds of a large portion of the population of this section of country, the memory of the twin brothers Capt. CALEB and Capt. JOSHUA CLAPP; the former a resident of this town, the latter of Montgomery, Vermont. Both were officers in the war of the Revolution, of the same grade. The resemblance between them was so perfect that they could not be distinguished the one from the other except by their dress. Both gentlemen of the old school, intelligent, affable, polite, and accessible to all. Both men of very sanguine temperament, at times seemingly enjoying life to the full, and again all nature seemed to them a blank, a desolation. The dark and all absorbing spirit of despondency and depression, (which occasionally takes possession of some peculiarly constituted minds) that grand leveller, and nullifier of talent and distinction, of which those who have never partaken,

can form no adequate conception, no, not even a remote idea, at times overwhelmed them, setting at nought the powers of reason.

The sympathy existing between these high minded and honorable, and when the writer last saw them together in 1810, venerable men, was as remarkable as the almost wonderful resemblance in their persons. Both were in comparatively easy circumstances, yet the first named had suffered considerably in the great Virginia land speculation. This sympathy showed itself in the closing act of their lives.

The human mind is so constituted, in the great mass of men, as to submit, in ordinary circumstances, to losses irretrievable, and to evils which are without a remedy. Not so in all. In some men, disastrous events produce immediate insanity, and in others imbecility—while in others, adversity begets fortitude, a perseverance which never yields. These are the men of iron. Depress a man by adversity, by a long series of disappointments and losses in all his undertakings, let his hopes and aspirations be laid low, let his enemies be among the rich and consequently influential; steep in poverty, mull and grind him, with every whipper-snapper to join in the hue and cry, and then, why, what then; if his heart is made of sheet iron and his nerves of steel, he may go calmly on his way and do as other men do. Screw him as long as he can bear it, that is merely the rheumatism, then give one more turn and it is the gout.

Reader, whoever thou art who perusest these lines, whether thou art gentle or simple, wise or unwise, let your motto be, *nil desperandum*, never despair, don't give up the ship, for be assured, if you are true to yourself and to your God, although your path be dreary and lonely,

'There is a Power whose care,
'Will teach your way along this pathless coast,'
'There's a sweet little cherub that sits up aloft,
'Who keeps watch for the life of poor Jack.'

The brothers were natives of the County of Worcester, and served through the whole war of the Revolution. The subject of this notice died in 1812—his brother, the year previous.

NOTE. Capt. Clapp, as well as others who bear that name in this country, are undoubtedly the descendants of Capt. Roger Clapp, who came to this country from England in 1629—was commander of the fort at Castle Island in 1665—distinguished in his day for eminent piety and usefulness.

THOMAS CHAPMAN.—Mr. Chapman was a native of Barford, Yorkshire, England; a gentleman of scrupulous integrity and uprightness, of extensive reading, and great intelligence and information: he had travelled much in the old world as well as in the new, and was a close observer of men and things. He resided some years in the East Indies, and was engaged in the rearing of silk worms, and in the silk business—residing some time at Bengal, and at Cossim-buzar. He resided subsequently some years in his native land, which he loved, (as he did also this his adopted country,) when from some dissatisfaction, as is supposed, with the course of things in England, he came to this Western world, and resided some time at Elizabethtown, New Jersey, was naturalized, and came to this town about the year 1796; where now his ashes rest, in their last, long sleep, discharged from the cares of earth.

His home was the home of hospitality, good old English hospitality, and in his heart dwelt the law of kindness and good will to all mankind. Affable and accessible to all, the young as well as the old, the humble as well as the exalted were free to draw from the fund of information he possessed, which was seemingly inexhaustible. Often, has the writer, who, though young, had the

pleasure of his acquaintance and friendship, listened with intense interest to his conversation.

" Still o'er those days my memory wakes,
And fondly turns with miser care."

In our intercourse with the world, we meet with so many sordid, and heartless, in whom all absorbing selfishness seems to have blotted out the last spark of generous and social feeling from the soul, that the mind lights with pleasure upon the history of the good and benevolent, like Noah's weary dove upon the olive branch, rising above the surrounding waste of waters in solitary loveliness, and loves to dwell upon them, as the weary pilgrim upon an Oasis in the desert. *Rari apparent nantes in gurgite vasto.*

Mr. C's reading in Theology was extensive; it may be said to have been his favorite study: it left on his mind an unwavering belief in the Sacred Scriptures, in which belief he lived and died.

" Within that sacred volume lies,
The mystery of mysteries,
And better never have been born,
Than read to doubt, or read to scorn."

On the 25th of May 1819, his life went out like the spark from the lamp which had long been feeble and flickering; it was gone in a moment.

" Walk thoughtful on the silent, solemn shore,
Of that vast Ocean you must sail so soon,
And put good works (*and faith*) on board, and wait the wind,
That shortly blows us into worlds unknown."

There are some who from inordinate selfishness, and judging others by themselves, seem to have no fellow feeling for any of the human race but their own relations: others whose love is confined to themselves alone; and who never speak well of any human being, or if by accident it be unwarily forced from them, it seems to come grudgingly. True it is, no one does more than his duty, few do that.

The mists of prejudice may for a time obscure the character of men of worth, but like the vapors which surround the mountain's summit which they cannot hide, they are ultimately dispelled. He had his faults. Reader, place your hand over the place where an honest heart is, or ought to be, and ask yourself if you have never sinned. If the answer be affirmative, seek not to "draw his frailties from their dread abode." Nathless there be some who appear and act as though they felt, We are not as other men are.

'Time rolls his ceaseless course. The race of yore,
'Who danced our infancy upon their knee,
'And told our marvelling boyhood legends store,
Of their strange ventures happ'd by land or sea,
'How are they blotted from the things that be!'

THE LAST OF THE FISHERMEN.

Timothy Hall, a native of Middletown, Connecticut. He came to this town not far from the year 1780. His sister was the wife of Rev. Dr. Newton. He established himself here in the hatting business, and lived where Col. Root now does. He was an unpretending and humble man, who although possessing the best disposition and kindest feelings imaginable, still loved to lure the finny race from their native element. He deprecated, yea, fairly abhorred the idea of taking them in seines or nets, or indeed in any other manner than by presenting them the well baited hook, thus giving them an opportunity to choose or refuse as to them should seem meet. This he considered as fair play; here was no compulsion. His faithful steed, Pomp, when straying here and there to pick the scanty herbage by the way side, knew his voice, would give an answering neigh, come at his call, cheerfully submit himself to the bit and rein, and trot away in high glee, seemingly enjoying the fishing excursions as well as his kind hearted and indul-

gent master. It was, today above the Falls, on the calm bosom of the river, or along its romantic shores; tomorrow, perhaps, some other part of the river, or at Lilly pond, or at Deerfield river; the next at Fall river, or Mill Brook, or some other brook. If business prevented or the weather was unfavorable, just at night, slip down to Green river.

"When the wind is in the West—
The fish bite the best,
When the wind is in the East,
Fish bite the least."

The frosts and snows of Winter afforded the fish no protection from his incursions. He knew all the good places, the times and seasons for taking them, and remembered with peculiar pleasure every spot where he had drawn his line successfully. Such success attended his fishing, that many were, as occasion offered, desirous of accompanying him on these excursions, vainly thinking, that under his patronage and countenance they would be sure of a good fry, as the phrase is. Side by side, few or none could compete with him. Frequently would he take a companion's place, by exchange, who complained he could not obtain even a glorious nibble, while himself was in luck, and the fish seemed to follow him, for his neighbor in taking his place, would fare little or no better than before, while he himself would pull them out at will. By what magic art, spell or charm, he had this power over the scaly fry, none could divine, yet some supposed he scented his bait with drugs. The secret died with him. His mantle has fallen on no one, although there are some hereabout who make pretensions to skill in the gentle art.

The same kindness and attention to their good cheer which he shewed to his favorite horse Pomp, our friend also shewed to every member of his family, both journeymen and apprentices, to all his domestic animals, and to all his visiters. All were liberally and bountifully fed. The

fish came in for their share also. He usually carried a pocket full of corn on his fishing excursions, which he threw into the river where he intended to throw the line, to toll or call them together. Whether a particle of that selfishness to which all flesh is heir, mingled in this act, the reader will, exercising all due charity, and careful how he judges of other men's motives, determine for himself. At any rate, this manœuvre commonly succeeded well, and doubtless many a dace, trout, perch, with others of the scaly fry, partook of his bounty, who never nibbled at his hook.

He was largely blessed in his companion for life: she was an eminent pattern of cheerfulness under all circumstances; of industry, humility and kindness, in whom pre-eminently shone forth the christian virtues. Her price was above rubies. Blessed, thrice blessed be the memory of such angels of good, such benefactors of suffering humanity, such sisters of charity. Many, very many still live to revere and bless her memory. Forgetting her own cares, ease and indulgence, to soothe the pillow of sickness and distress and the bed of death, and pouring into the wounded heart the oil of consolation and hope. Such good works are not to be purchased with money. Too good for earth, gone to enjoy her rest, a pure being in a nobler sphere.

And here in relation to his kindness and indulgence to those in his employ, especially to the younger ones, the apprentices, I may be pardoned for saying that, what proceeded from that kindness and goodness of heart in him, was to many of them a permanent injury, as they thereby failed of acquiring those business habits, so necessary to success in life, which probably would not have forsaken them. The young as well as the old, are by nature inclined to ease and indulgence, whereas the tenure upon, or by which we hold our life, and the true enjoyment of it, as well as the means whereby we live, do not admit of it. That it is better to wear out than to rust out, is a prime and cardinal maxim. Occupation

is necessary to the health of the mind as well as the body; it is indispensable to both. Employment is the grand panacea for those thick coming fancies, low spirits, spleen, that horrible depression of mind, which destroy the usefulness and happiness, and nullify the talents of many a son of Adam. *Nil sine labore*—nothing to be had without labor. Toil strings the nerves and clarifies the blood. Look at a cultivated field, the ears of whose crop are white to the harvest; at that beautiful garden, rich in the production of plants and flowers. What a living picture is here of the beneficial effects of industry, apparently worthless before its hand was applied, the abode of weeds or barrenness.

Somewhere about half a century ago, an unlucky, unworthy and mischievous frolick loving wight of an apprentice, by name Sam McDaniels, lived with our worthy friend the fisherman, who carried on a very considerable business. Sam knowing the peculiar humor of his master, in the dark recesses of a mind fruitful in, and ever studying out some wicked and mischievous trick, contrived by the agency of an old cow with an unmusical bell attached to her neck, to disturb, for one night at least, the sleep of his kind master. After every body was asleep but himself and the Owls, he placed a bundle of hay under the window where his master slept, and drove the cow up to partake of it. The act of eating the hay would set the restless tongue of the bell in motion, which would awake his master, who would get up and drive the cow away. He, concealed near by, could hear his master's complaint, and reproaches at the innocent animal, while himself convulsed his wicked sides with suppressed laughter. Thus he consumed the live long night, which was a cold one. Ever as the animal was driven, and he supposed his master had again got fairly asleep, he enacted over the frolic till the dawn of day. Careless of his own rest and ease, the love of fun and mischief was uppermost, and every other consideration yielded to it.

The disposition to frolic, at the present day, seems to vent itself in somewhat a different and more serious way.

Mr. H. had a compeer—a man of "mighty bone and bold emprize," in this line; of commanding size and figure, a man of brawn. To those who complained they could catch no fish, he would say, you do not use the right bait; why, Mr. Potter, I bait with necessity, said he.

He fell a martyr to the cause. His sons had often told him that he would lose his life in that stream in which he so much delighted to fish, and so it was. On the 26th Nov. 1828, he was enjoying his favorite sport in a canoe or skiff anchored out in the eddy a few rods below Deerfield River Bridge. By some movement of his the canoe lurched, and he was plunged headlong into the stream, some rods from the shore. He made an effort to reach the shore, and swam for a while; but the coldness of the water, added to the infirmities of age, and his hat being drenched and falling down over his eyes, so far thwarted his exertions that he sunk, and although help was soon afforded, he was drawn from the water, no longer a prisoner of hope; his spirit had taken its everlasting flight to that world where all is judged of truly.

Admiral Potter was a native of New Bedford—his age 75.

There was yet another of this brotherhood, these true disciples of Isaac Walton, and they delighted to fish together and talk over their exploits. This was no other than the late Mr. John Pinks. He was a native of Thetford, England, came over with Burgoyne, as master Tailor to the army, and was at the battle of Bemus's heights. He was a while at Cambridge, and while the army was at the barracks at Rutland, he was in an adjoining town at work, and was not notified seasonably to join them on their return to England. He died here in February 1835, aged 79.

Lt. CALVIN MUNN.—This venerable and veteran soldier of the Revolution, settled in this town soon after the war, and was for a long series of years the host of the traveller and wayfaring man. He came to this town in 1792.

His enterprise, his iron industry, his energy and decision of character, with other sterling traits, are known and remembered by most of our citizens. The readiness and energy with which, upon occasion, he would handle the musket, like a plaything, and the rapidity of his action in going through the exercise, would even now at his advanced age, put a whole regiment of our modern militia warriors to the blush.

He was born at Munson, in Hampden County, in 1761, enlisted into the army in 1777, and served during the war. Was at the taking of Burgoyne; on Rhode Island with Sullivan: in Lafayette's Infantry: was at the South with him at the capture of Cornwallis at Yorktown. The spring after the second three years men joined the army, he was selected as drill sergeant to teach the recruits who joined the 4th Massachusetts regiment, the first rudiments of discipline. Among the number was a young girl of about twenty, who enlisted under the name of Robert Shurtliff, but whose real name was DEBORAH SAMPSON. She was prompt and expert, and did her duty faithfully as a soldier. No one in the regiment, probably, suspected her to be a female. In the fall of the year, after those who enlisted during the war were discharged, the regiment she belonged to were sent to Philadelphia, where she was taken sick: was deranged, and by the character of her symptoms, the physicians discovered her sex. She was dressed accordingly, and sent home to her friends, and married a Mr. Gannett. A novel was written soon after the war, of which she was the heroine, not one fourth part of which is true. She was not wounded as is therein related.

SOLOMON SMEAD, son of David Smead.—The first Judge of Probate after the county was organised; many years a representative, and one of the Governor's Council. He was much resorted to for counsel and advice. A remarkable sickness prevailed in his family in January 1808. The disorder, which was a highly malignant, putrid fever, swept away Mrs. S. after a sickness of fourteen hours, and three children soon after, with a sickness nearly as brief. Another died the next month, of the same disorder.

I am reluctantly compelled to omit here notices of other individuals, well worthy of a passing tribute, for the reason that this already exceeds the number of pages intended, and the impatience of the Printer. I regret also to be obliged to omit a List of Obituaries since the year 1790, and other articles intended to form an appendix.

CHAPTER X.

LAWYERS, PHYSICIANS, GRADUATES, &c.

As it has been customary in the Histories of Towns to insert the names of Graduates, Lawyers, &c. some of those who were born and have resided here, are here inserted. For the reason given in the last chapter, I am obliged to be more brief than I could desire.

Edward Billing, Physician, son of the Rev. Edward B. Grad. Harv. College. He studied Divinity, and preached for a short time. He practised Physic here till his death—in 1806.

Roger Newton, Jr. Grad. Yale Coll. 1785. Tutor there in 1788. Studied Law with the late Governor Strong, at Northampton. A man of excellent endowments and great promise. He died in 1789, aged 27.

WILLIAM COLEMAN, a native of Boston, studied Law at Worcester, with Judge Paine. He was in a great measure self taught, though his early advantages were good. When spoken of, he was always called Lawyer Coleman, a man of genius, talents and taste; enterprise and perseverance. *Nil tetigit quod non ornavit.* He excelled in every thing, even in athletic exercises; in music, dancing, skating, ball playing; in writing, not one of our modern teachers, who can learn any and every body to write a good hand in 12 hours, could equal his neatness of style—in every thing first and foremost, and finished every thing he undertook, except the house he began to build; succeeded in almost every thing except in the Great Virginia Land speculation, and although in this he thought at one time that he had realized some $30.000 of as substantial material as our good President's yellow boys—yet it turned out like Maine speculations, mere moonshine; 'twas mere brown paper, such as pedlars choose. This spirit of speculation makes men heartless, and converts them into cannibals.

He afterwards went to New York, was the partner of Aaron Burr, and the intimate friend of Alexander Hamilton; and finally the editor of the Evening Post, the leading and most influential paper on the Federal side of politics, in the Union.

Several of the tall and beautiful elms which are now the pride and ornament of this village, were planted and watered by the hand of William Coleman. The corroding tooth of time has levelled an ancient and spreading butternut, which stood a few rods south east from the house he built, and the towering old Hayscales still farther on, where now no land is. The very fertile and beautiful meadow west of these buildings was, within memory, covered with many lofty walnuts, sprinkled over the soil like an orchard, excepting the western part, which was covered with alders, among which and near the margin of Bull head pond, where is a fine spring of water, once stood the hut or wigwam of a solitary Indian.

Walnuts of the finest quality and size, have been gathered by the cart load, from this tract.

Mr. Coleman was appointed Clerk of the City Court, with a salary of $3000. He was also a Reporter of Decisions, and published a volume of Reports which bear his name. In reporting the case of Levi Weeks, who was tried for the murder of Gulielma Sands, by throwing her into the Manhatten well, a note was subjoined in which it was said that as Weeks had had a fair trial by a jury of his country and been acquitted, the public ought to acquiesce in the decision, &c. leaving an impression that Coleman believed him guilty. The brother of W. requested Mr. Coleman to alter this note or vary the phraseology, to which Mr. C. replied that it was too late, as the report was published and gone abroad. Mr. Weeks then offered him $500 if he would make the desired alteration, which Mr. Coleman declined doing. Ultimately Mr. W. offered $1500 for the suppression of the Report or for the edition. Mr. Coleman said, Mr. W. you are not worth money enough, neither is the City of New York, to buy me. Ever after, Mr. W. became his attached and firm friend. An occasion soon presented for a trial.

A painter, an acquaintance of Mr. C. applied to him to purchase an elegant picture he had executed, which being in distress for money, he offered to sell him for $500, and pressed him very earnestly to purchase it and relieve his distress. After some reflection, Mr. C. recollecting Weeks's passion for pictures, and knowing his wealth, said, I think I can find you a purchaser. He took occasion to call upon Weeks, and after examining and commenting upon his pictures, of which he had a large and fine collection, observed, here is a space just large enough for an elegant picture I know of, it will fill this vacancy nicely, and then stated the case of the painter. The idea took; C. went with Weeks to the painter's shop. The painter stated, as he had previously done to C. the great labor, care and time he had be-

stowed upon it, and its value, but his necessities were such, he was induced to offer it for $500. Mr. Weeks was satisfied with the price, and the bargain was closed. —Such a man was William Coleman. Levi W. after his trial resided for a time at Bloody Brook, in this County, and was engaged in trade; ultimately he became a vagabond, as is said.

Jonathan Leavitt, son of Rev. R. Leavitt, of Heath. Graduated Yale Coll. 1786. Studied Law at New Haven, C. and settled here about the year 1790. Senator in ——, and for many years Judge of Probate and of the C. C. Pleas. Died in 1830, aged 66.

Richard English Newcomb, son of Hezekiah Newcomb, of Bernardston. Born at Lebanon, C. in 1770. Grad. Dart. Coll. 1793. Studied Law with William Coleman. Admitted 1796. Representative in 1805. County Attorney. Judge of Probate since 1821.

Samuel Clesson Allen,* son of Joseph Allen, of Bernardston. Grad. D. Coll. 1794. Settled in the ministry at Northfield in 1795, which situation he relin-

* It has been suggested that John and Edward Allyn, mentioned on the 18th page, could not have been the sons of Edward Allyn who settled at Dedham, but might have been his Grandsons. The last named died in 1642. There were several of the name settled here in early times, among whom were David, Noah, John and Joseph, who may have been of a different family from Edward. Joseph, the Grandfather of Hon. Mr. A. removed from this town to Bernardston about 90 years since, and was one of the first settlers of that town.

Capt. Joseph Clesson, the maternal Grandfather of Mr. A. was at Cape Breton in 1740. He was taken by the Indians at Grave Brook, near Rocky Mountain, a little East of the village, from whom he suffered severe treatment; and carried to Canada, where he was forced to run the gauntlet. From thence he was carried to France, where he was detained about three years and a half.

quished a few years after, studied Law with John Barrett and settled in New Salem. Senator. Elected to the 13th Congress in 1816, and continued a member until the 22d Congress. Removed to this town about the year 1822. County Attorney soon after the County was organised. He now resides at Northfield. He holds a deservedly high rank among the accomplished scholars and statesmen of New England.

Elijah Alvord, son of Caleb Alvord. Studied Law with Judge Newcomb. Admitted in 1802. Has resided here, except from 1805 to 1809 at Greenwich. Representative. Member of State Convention in 1820. Received the hon. degree of A. M. at Dart. and Williams Colleges. Register of Probate. Clerk of Courts since 1819. Palmam qui meruit, etc.

Proctor Pierce, native of New Salem. Grad. Dart. C. 1796. He kept the District School in this village several years—where all branches then studied, were taught, and where many were fitted for College. Scholars resorted to his School from abroad. He engaged in trade, and afterwards taught at Cambridge and Boston.

Avery Williams, son of Rev. H. Williams, of Leverett, a Graduate of the same College in 1804, succeeded Mr. P. in the same school. He settled in the ministry at Lexington. Died in 1816, aged 34.

George Thomas Chapman, son of Thomas Chapman, Born in Devonshire, England, in 1786. Graduated D. Coll. 1804. Studied Law with Judge Newcomb. Admitted in 1808, and practised a few years at Bucksport, Maine. Studied Divinity, and took orders in the Episcopal Church. Ten years Rector of Christ Church in Lexington, Kentucky. Received the degree of D. D. from Transylvania University in 1824.—Now settled at Newark, New Jersey. His published works are, Sermons upon the ministry, worship and Doctrines of the Episcopal Church, and Sermons to Presbyterians.

Hooker Leavitt, son of Rev. R. Leavitt, of Heath. Member for a time of Dart. Coll. Studied Law with his brother, Judge Leavitt. Admitted in 1811. Register of Deeds, and County Treasurer.

Rodolphus Dickinson, son of Col. T. W. Dickinson, Deerfield. Grad. Yale Coll. 1805. Studied Law at Northampton with John Taylor. Admitted 1808. Practised at Springfield till 1811. Clerk of the Courts in this County from 1811 to 1819, when he took orders in the Ep. Church and removed to the upper section of South Carolina, and was instrumental in the formation of two Parishes, Greenville and Pendleton. During the first eighteen months of alternate service there, he travelled more than 7000 miles on horseback. Some of the most distinguished men of South Carolina were his parishioners, and his services were held in high estimation. He returned to Deerfield in 1832, and has since officiated in a parish in Montague. Not having taken letters dismissory from the Bishop of South Carolina, he is still canonically attached to that Diocese. Among his published works are several Law and School Books; Geographical and other works: a translation of the New Testament. In regard to the latter, it has been deemed, by some at least, that he has been traduced, and that many assertions made by critics, respecting it, are assumed and unfounded.

Elihu Lyman, son of Maj. Elihu Lyman. Grad. D. Coll. 1803. Studied with Judge Newcomb. Admitted 1806. Sheriff of the County from 1811 to 1819. Practised Law at Greenwich. Senator from Hampshire Co.

Jos. S. Lyman, son of Maj. E. L. Grad. D. Coll. 1805. Studied and practised Law at Cooperstown, N.Y. Member of Congress.

Rejoice Newton, son of Capt. Isaac Newton. Grad. D. Coll. 1807. Studied with Judge Newcomb, and with E. H. Mills. Admitted in 1810. Commenced practice in Worcester with F. Blake. County Attorney

for several years, and Representative in 1829—30, 31. Senator in 1834.

George Grennell, Jr. son of George Grennell. Grad. D. Coll. 1808. Studied with Judge Newcomb. Admitted in 1811. Senator in 1824. County Attorney. Elected member of Congress in 1827. Declined re-election in 1838.

Franklin Ripley, son of Jerom Ripley. Grad. D. Coll. 1809. Studied Law at Cooperstown, N. Y. and at Northfield with John Barrett. Admitted 1812. Practised Law at Northfield. Cashier of the Greenfield Bank since its establishment.

David Willard, son of Beriah Willard. B. 1790. Grad. D. Coll. 1809. Studied with Judge Newcomb. Adm. 1812.*

Daniel Wells, son of Col. D. Wells. Grad. D. Coll. 1810. Studied with Elijah Alvord. Adm. 1813. Senator. District Attorney for the four Western Counties of Massachusetts.

Horatio Gates Newcomb, son of Hezekiah Newcomb, of Bernardston. Studied Law with John Barrett, Northfield—with Judge Newcomb, and in Connecticut. Adm. 1813. Practised Law, at Winchendon and at Northfield and in this town since 1827. Received hon. degree of A. M. Williams Coll.

Justice Willard, son of Reuel Willard. Grad. D. Coll.

* Horace, a Roman writer, in his Art of Poetry, supposes the case of a painter forming a design of uniting a horse's neck to a human head and spreading a variety of plumage over limbs of different animals taken from every part of nature, so that what was a beautiful woman in the upper parts should terminate in an ugly fish below. The union here proposed would be as natural, as to expect a man to succeed in a profession every way uncongenial to his feelings, especially of one of unconquerable diffidence and inclined to despondency and depression of mind. Parents should not choose professions for their children: they should choose for themselves.

1811. Studied with E. Alvord and Judge Newcomb. Adm. 1814. Settled at Springfield. Senator. Register of Probate.

Flavel Griswold, son of Theophilus Griswold. Grad. Yale Coll. 1821. Some time Minister at South Hadley Falls.

Samuel Wells, son of Col. Samuel Wells. Grad. D. Coll. 1813. Studied with Judge Leavitt. Adm. 1816. Removed to Northampton. Clerk of the Courts in Hampshire County.

Joseph P. Allen, son of Samuel C. Allen, New Salem. Grad. D. Coll. 1813. Adm. 1816. Practised in Bernardston, here, and at Charlemont.

David Brigham, Shrewsbury. Grad. Harv. Coll. Removed to Fitchburg.

Charles Baker, Conway. Studied with Daniel Wells.

Jonathan Ashley Saxton, son of Rufus Saxton, Deerfield. Grad. Harv. Coll.

Henry Chapman, son of Thomas Chapman. Studied with Judge Newcomb. Adm. 1826. Hon. degree of A. M. Williams Coll. Several years Representative.

Allen Clay Morgan, son of Alexander Morgan. Washington Coll. Minister of the Episcopal Church, Connecticut.

Francis Dana Newcomb, son of Judge Newcomb. Grad. West Point Academy. Lieutenant U. S. A. Baton Rouge.

George Ripley, son of Jerom Ripley. Grad. Harv. 1823. Tutor 1824. He received in two instances the second Bowdoin prize. Studied at the Divinity School, Cambridge. Minister of the Purchase street Church, Boston.

Almon Brainard, Randolph, Vermont. Grad. Hamilton Coll. New York. Admitted 1829.

James Church Alvord, son of Elijah Alvord. Grad. D. Coll. 1827. Studied with Daniel Wells, and at Law School New Haven. Adm. 1830. Senator in *1837—8.*

Joseph Warren Newcomb, son of Richard E. Newcomb. Grad. Williams Coll. 1825. Studied with his father, and Newton & Lincoln, Worcester. Practised at Templeton, Salisbury and Worcester.

Charles C. Corss, son of Asher Corss. Grad. Amh. Coll. 183—. Studied at Divinity School, Princeton, N. J. Now of Athens, N. Y.

George Thomas Davis, son of Wendell Davis, Sandwich, Barnstable Co. Grad. Harv. Coll. 1829. Studied with Wells & Alvord, and at Law School, Cambridge, Adm. 1832.

David Aiken, Bedford, N. H. Grad. Dart. Coll. 1830. Studied with Wells & Alvord. Adm. 1833.

Charles Ripley, son of T. W. Ripley. Grad. D. C. 1835. Louisville, Kentucky.

Daniel Wells Alvord, son of E. Alvord. Union Coll. N. Y. 1838.

Wendell Thornton Davis, son of the late Hon. W. Davis. Harv. Coll. 1838.

George Ashmun, son of Eli P. Ashmun, Northampton. Harv. Coll. 1823. Studied with Daniel Wells. Adm. 1826. Springfield. Senator in 1837—8.

Physicians.—Zechariah Converse, Killingly, Conn. died suddenly in 1790, of apoplexy. Dr. Newton said of him—"A man who had been capable of doing good, and peculiar for his contentment with small things—and refraining from resentful, reviling language and conduct towards mankind."—Dr. Caldwell. Dr. White. Edward Billing, Grad. Harv. Coll. 1775. Joshua Rugg.

John Stone, son of Capt. John Stone, of Rutland. Born 1763. Studied with Dr. J. Frink. Came here in 1787, and continued in practice here, except a short time in New York, till 1819, when he removed to Providence, and soon after to Springfield, where, as here, his practice was extensive. Died Sept. 1838, æt. 75. His remains were entombed here. Distinguished for

his personal accomplishments as a man, and his ability and usefulness as a physician.

Alpheus Fletcher Stone, son of Capt. John Stone. Studied with Dr. John Stone, and commenced business here in 1805. Hon. degree of M. D. Williams College.

Seth Washburn, native of Leicester. Studied with Dr. Flint, Northampton. Died January 1825, aged 34—much respected as a man, and for his skill as a physician.

Amariah Brigham, a native of Berkshire County. Commenced practice here in 1821. Removed to Hartford 1831. Author of several medical works.

Helaz Alvord. South Hadley and Montague. Removed here in 1827. Died in 1829, aged 38.

Stephen Bates, son of Dr. Bates, Charlemont. Grad. Williams Coll. 1826. Studied with Hunt and Barrett, Northampton, and at Jefferson College, Philadelphia. M. D. at the same. Commenced practice here in 1831.

James Deane, son of C. Deane, Colerain. Studied with A. W. Ives, New York city. Med. Grad. University of the State of New York, 1831. Received the hon. degree of A. M. from Amherst Coll. 1838. Commenced practice here 1831.

Francis Dana, Cambridge. Grad. Harv. Coll. Commenced practice here in 1831. Removed to Boston 1834.

CHAPTER XI.

Notice of the Early Traders—Newspapers—Schools—Stages—Banks—Factories—Scenery—Witches—Turner's Falls—Society, &c.

Samuel Bliss, of Boston, built the store on the corner, now occupied by E. W. Kingsley and others. Not favoring the Revolution, he joined the British, and was made a Captain. He was included among the outlawed

in 1778. Their first return was punishable by transportation to the British dominions: the second with death. George Grennell, Saybrook, Connecticut, was his successor in business.

Reuel and Beriah Willard, Shrewsbury, came about the year 1770. Samuel Field, Deerfield. William Moore, Rutland.

Jerom Ripley, Hingham. Removed to this town from Boston in 1789. Mrs. Ripley is a native of Boston, and descendant of Benjamin Franklin. Mr. R. built the house and store he now occupies in 1790. For half a century or more has this venerable man stood behind the counter: more years, probably, than any other individual in New England, whose integrity, like the virtue of Cæsar's wife, was never even suspected: of whose virtue and uprightness a long course of years leaves no question; who never took from any man the ten thousandth part of a fraction unjustly; a living and eminent example of the beneficial effects of steady industry and perseverance in one calling, and of minding one's own business and letting others alone. A change has passed over all who have stood around him. More than eighty persons have been concerned in trade in this town, from the time he began. He has been a Justice of the Peace near fifty years, a Representative, and one of the Justices of the Court of Sessions. If all these facts make it invidious to speak of the living, then be it so.

A few others of the early traders, were, Samuel Field, E. Upham, Caleb Alvord, and Abner Smead. Joseph Taylor and John E. Hall, Middletown, C. Samuel Pierce, do. Daniel Forbes, William Forbes, Brookfield. Hart Leavitt, Calvin Munn, Thomas Dickman, Newton & Green, O. Wilkinson. Norton & Bird, Simsbury, C. John Russell, Abner Wells. David Ripley, Hingham, died 1836, universally respected. Drugs and Medicines, Edward Billings. Marble—Dix, Brinley, C. Clapp.

MANUFACTORIES.—The Satinett Factory of N. E. Russell & Co. at Fall river, employs a large capital and numerous hands. The building first used was burnt, in Nov. 1829. Loss estimated at about $30,000. A spacious stone building now supplies its place. A large amount of prime quality cloths are annually turned off.

The CUTLERY WORKS of J. Russell, Jun. & Co. first established in this town, were burnt down in 1836, and since rebuilt, on Green river, a few rods beyond the south line of the town, within the bounds of Deerfield, are much enlarged, and calculated for an extensive business. Superior cutlery of various kinds, is manufactured.

NOTE. FIRES. Besides the fires referred to, there have been the house of Col. Gilbert, T. Chapman, shop of W. Wilson, R. E. Field—and in 1826, 8 buildings—house of A. Clark, and Mrs. Munn; shops of Clay & Field, D. Long, A. Ames, &c.

NEWSPAPERS.—The first newspaper printed in this part of the country was established here by Thomas Dickman, a native of Boston, in February 1793, who served his time with Benjamin Edes & Son. It was called the Impartial Intelligencer. He had at first 800 subscribers, but the number soon increased to 1600. The name was soon after changed to that of Greenfield Gazette. It was afterwards for a time printed by Francis Barker, and from 1802 to 1810 by John Denio. From that period under the title of the Traveller, Herald and Advertiser, &c. by Col. Ansel Phelps, a native of Northampton. The Gazette printed by J. Denio and Alanson Clark (Northampton) in 1825, united with the Herald in 1827. Franklin Federalist, by Russell Wells, 1816, (discontinued.) Franklin Post and Christian Freeman, 1825, removed to Northampton and discontinued. Freedom's Sentinel, by Alonzo Rawson, (dis.) Franklin Freeman, by J. P. Fogg, 1831. Franklin Mercury, by G. T. Davis; united with the Gazette 1837.

Workingman's Advocate, 1836, by J. M. Campbell, (dis.) Greenfield Courier, by Kneeland & Eastman. 1838.

When Mr. Dickman's paper was first published, newspapers were procured for him by a company who sent to Springfield every week. A Post Office was soon after established, and he was appointed Postmaster, which office he held till 1804, when the present Postmaster, Capt. A. Ames, was appointed.

Mails and Stages.—A notice was published in 1792 by T. Pickering, Postmaster General, for contracts for carrying a mail from Springfield to Brattleboro, once a week: to leave Springfield Mon. 1 o'clk. A. M. arr. at B. 5 P. M. next day: leave B. next Sat. noon. arr. at S. 9 A. M. next Mon. From Brattleboro to Hanover once a week. For every hour's delay one dollar fine. In 1796 a stage was run from Hartford to Brattleboro three times a week, during five months of the year—remainder twice, by R. Sikes, and others.

About the year 1806, a stage commenced running every other day from Hartford to Brattleboro, as now, to which is recently added a daily line up and down, both by Chapin & Deming, J. Spencer and others.

The mail hither from Boston, for a few years previous to 1809, was brought once a week on horseback. In 1810 in a covered carriage, by John Phelps, and soon after to Albany. About the year 1817, every other day to Boston and Albany, and for several years past, by different routes, every day to both, and to Worcester Rail Road.

Schools.—The High School for the instruction of Young Ladies was established in 1828, since which it has flourished under the care of the Rev. Henry Jones, of Hartford, C. and Graduate of Yale College in 1820. The course of study, comprising all branches of a female education, is systematic and apparently as complete as

could be devised or desired, with an instructor to each department. So powerful is the influence of females upon society, and so almost entirely dependant is the happiness of the other sex, upon their good or ill education; so enduring is that of the mother upon those entrusted to her care, that the importance of that education, which should begin at home, and afterwards continue to be of a domestic character, that it cannot be measured or weighed by any measure or scale hitherto existing even in fancy. Refined manners will in general be duly estimated: a certain undefinable delicacy of mind and thought, arising from a proper education, can alone give that true dignity and grace, which place woman where she should be, but a little lower than the angels; with which mere personal beauty is no more to be compared, than the meanest insect which sports in the sunbeam to the glorious luminary itself.

The situation of the buildings is elevated and beautiful, and probably surpassed by no other for convenience. The eye of the traveller, especially coming from the south, rests with pleasure upon these buildings, and from the School itself a prospect is spread out before and under the eye, of sloping hills and mountains, meadow and vale and stream, overlooking the windings of Green river, as picturesque and pleasing as it often rests upon or can desire.

An INSTITUTION for the education of females in all the branches usually taught in High Schools, has recently been opened by the Misses Stone, daughters of Dr. A. F. Stone, (who are experienced and well qualified instructors,)—in a pleasant and commodious situation and with a suitable building. This school promises much usefulness.

No. of Public Schools, 7; No. of Scholars of all ages in all the Schools, in Winter, 317; in Summer, 278; average attendance in the Schools in Winter, 253; in Summer, 218; No. of persons between the ages of 4 and 16 years of age in the town, 494; aggregate length

of the Schools, 61 months, in Winter, 26, in Summer, 35; No. of Teachers in Summer, Males, 0, Females, 7; No. of Teachers in Winter, Males, 4, Females, 4; average wages paid per month including board, to Males, $23 40, to Females, $12 88; amount of money raised by Taxes for the support of Schools, $800 00; amount raised by Taxes for Teachers' wages, including board, if paid from the public money, $750 00; amount raised voluntarily to prolong common schools, including fuel and board, if contributed, $300 00; No. of Academies or Private Schools, 2; aggregate of months kept, 24; aggregate of Scholars, 60; aggregate paid for tuition, $1,500 00.

GREENFIELD BANK. Incorporated 1822.
Capital, $150,000.
William Pomroy, President.
Franklin Ripley, Cashier.

SAVINGS INSTITUTION. Incor. 1834.
E. Alvord, Pres. F. Ripley, Treas.
T. O. Sparhawk, Sec.
Amount deposited to 1st January, 1838, $6,120 57.
No. of Depositors 70.

MUTUAL INSURANCE CO. Incorporated 1829.
H. G. Newcomb, Pres. A. Brainard, Sec.
No. of Policies issued, 1000. Amount Insured, 4 to $500,000.

Scenery.—The Falls, &c.—Our vicinity makes no claim to scenery of a very striking character, excepting the views to be had at the Falls, the Glen, and one or two others, which may be called so. One thing is very certain, that these falls, and the scenery about them, are far less known, noticed and spoken of, in story and

in song, than their wild and romantic character seems to deserve, and are less visited than others of a similar description. To most in this vicinity they have been familiar from infancy, and therefore little regarded. There are no Lakes to give beauty to this section of country, yet from a short distance above the falls, thence ascending for two or three miles, are many places where the river, spreading wide out before you, the overhanging, dark woods, the wild and imposing solitude, occasionally only broken by the oars of the boat and raftsmen, there being no dwellings near, may give it some similitude of a lake among the woods, especially to one a little tinctured with the romantic. This is a favorite resort of the wild duck, heron, loon, bittern, crane, eagle, who are often seen on its banks and waters.—The roar of the water, rolling and tumbling over the great dam at misty morn and dewy eve, is often heard at a considerable distance. This was formerly a place of great resort during the fishing season, and especially on Election day, when a full assortment with a great variety of people of both sexes and all ages and colors might be found there; black, white, yellow and grey; the music of the viol and dancing; gambling in all its forms; in fine, dissipation of every sort. Shad and Salmon were taken in abundance, and the time was when shad were taken 1000 at a haul and sold for a penny apiece.

These Falls have taken the name of Turner, from a battle fought there in 1676, by Capt. Turner, and a party of Indians, are situated between this town, Gill, and Montague, and are the most interesting waterfalls in New England. The dam erected here for the canal, originally erected in part by capitalists from Holland, is about 1000 feet long, resting near the centre upon two small islands. Over the dam the water leaps more than thirty feet perpendicular, and for a mile continues descending rapidly, and foaming along its course. An hundred rods below, the stream strikes directly against a lofty Greenstone ridge, (rocky mountain,)

when it changes its course towards the south, near a quarter of a circle.

From the elevated ground on the Gill shore, the cataract may be seen to good advantage: the islands below with their trees and shrubs: the lofty wood covered ridge to the right: the dam and rocks and tumbling waters below: canal opposite: the placid expanse of water above: with its scenery and forest of pines beyond; near you, a little north, the stone Factory of N. E. Russell & Co. and its village, on Fall river, form altogether, a picturesque and highly romantic prospect, worth an hundred miles ride to look upon. In high water, the view approaches the grand and sublime. Rafts, and boats heavily loaded, pass the canal in considerable numbers, from far up and down the river, leaving annually from 9000 to $14,000 in tolls.

Something more than a mile below the falls is an island connected with the Eastern shore by a low natural dam of rock about 200 feet long. This and the surrounding country, taking in nearly the whole town of Montague, with its five miles extent of dark ever green plains of pine, with a beautiful prospect of the town of Greenfield, and the neighboring hills, to the west, though not extensive, rarely equalled, may be had from the rocky ridge or mountain alluded to, which borders the village on the East, presenting a rude and rugged, yet bold and romantic aspect, of trees and rock. Veins of copper are found on this ridge, and the Geologist here finds a rich subject.

One old gentleman, Mr. B. has always maintained a mysterious air and conversation on the subject of the mines and minerals of this mountain and its vicinity, and Kidd's money, others have searched with mineral rods and witch hazel.

There were formerly a number of sawmills on Fall river, and North East, as the factory village was once called, was much resorted to for lumber. A great number of logs were left by the spring floods, before

they were sent by the canal, and previous to the lumbermen passing down to set them adrift, were easily taken possession of, and converted into boards and shingles, which knew not the right owners nor whence they came. It is said that a considerable business was carried on in this way.

Scarce half a century ago, there were many in that vicinity, who believed in witches. One old Lady residing there, Mrs. Thatcher, was certainly supposed to be one, and she told fortunes occasionally. One neighbor had a calf bewitched: a female named Dewey, frequently screamed out violently in the night, and when her friends went to see what ailed her she was found in profuse perspiration and wet as if just taken from the river: this continued—she was taken to be bewitched, and removed to Montague where she died.

There was formerly a Grist mill at this place, and a fulling mill occupied by Ezekiel Bascom,* who lived in the village; and was a man of strong mind and much thought of. One night when he slept at the Falls, a horse shoe came into his room and performed various evolutions, and though a resolute and determined man, he so far yielded to superstitious feeling as never to lodge there again. A horse shoe was nailed up at the mill to keep off witches. It was pretended that the mill wheels sometimes stopped and could not be induced to go: Mr. B–nton's cattle and cart stopped in the road without his being able to make them go: he said he heard female voices under the cart: a fox soon came out from under it: the cattle went on again and all was well. In fine, North East was a sort of enchanted ground; the residence of witches and hobgoblins, and furnished forth many stories for the credulous.

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* The family of Bascom was from Northampton, and always held a very respectable standing. Moses Bascom, Esq. Grandfather of Mr. Dorus Bascom, bought lands now belonging to the family in 1761, at 40 cts. the acre. Of 400 acres, the highest he paid was 4s.

SOCIETY.—From the number of Religious societies existing in a town so small, a stranger might suppose the people to be divided in feelings and sympathies and prone to contention. Social intercourse is not affected by these divisions, although in some small degree bounded by parish lines. If narrowness and bigotry exist, they are confined to the narrow minded. A good state of feeling seems to prevail universally. The town is composed of as virtuous and intelligent a population as can be found anywhere, and no people are more ready to contribute liberally to every laudable public or charitable object. As for those who esteem themselves perfect, and despise others, "In self adoring pride securely mailed," we wish them more humility, and hope to give a better account of them in our fiftieth edition.

And now, Reader, a word at parting. It will soon, very soon be of little moment to you and to me and to all who enjoy the privilege of looking upon this beautiful earth and the garniture thereof; upon the splendid luminaries above and all the planets and stars revolving in their spheres: upon the faces of men, and to the voices of loved ones—oft

'Listening, as the mariner suspends the outbound oar,
To taste the farewell gale that blows from off his native shore—'

whether we were rich or poor, exalted or lowly, honored or neglected; the stream of time which ebbs not, is fast wafting us into the interminable ocean of Eternity, and

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NOTE. The families by the name of Russell, are supposed to be the descendants of Rev. John Russell, who removed from Weathersfield, Connecticut, in 1642, to Hadley, and was installed there, and who concealed Goffe and Whalley, two of the Judges of King Charles I. of England.

while we are dreaming of honors or spending our time in trifles, we are fast approaching that shoreless ocean; a few paces more and we are embarked upon its waters—see to it that the Pilot, chart, and compass are on board, and be able to say, "I have no cause to fear,] my father's at the helm." Reader, Farewell.

INADVERTENT OMISSIONS.

The following should have been placed in the list of Lawyers and Graduates who have resided here.

Elisha Hunt Allen, son of Hon. S. C. Allen, Grad. Williams Coll. Studied Law with his father. Admitted ——. Practised here. Removed to Bangor, Maine. Representative. Speaker of H. of R. of Maine.

Frederick H. Allen, son of Hon. S. C. Allen. Grad. Burlington Coll. Vermont. Studied with his father. Adm. ——. Practised at New Salem. Removed to Bangor, Maine.

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